Tuesday, May 29, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 170 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Corona hid '98% of cash'

'Palusot,' Fariñas says of CJ testimony

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona concealed 98 percent of his financial assets in clear violation of public trust and of transparency provisions of the Constitution, House prosecutors said yesterday in closing arguments at his impeachment trial.

By House Senior Rep. Rodolfo Farińas' summation, Corona did not report P180 million in hard cash kept in various bank accounts, referring to the sum of the $2.4 million (about P100 million) the Chief Justice deposited in four banks and the P80 million in commingled funds in three others.

Corona declared only P3.5 million in cash and investments in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2010.

Fariñas accused Corona of resorting to "palusot (lame excuses)" in attempting to explain his failure to include the deposits and high-end real properties in his SALNs.

"The Chief Justice engaged in a buying spree (of expensive real estate) beginning 2004. He did not declare them in his SALN until 2010. We have a new President by then that's why," said Fariñas, the second speaker assigned to deliver closing arguments against Corona.

The House prosecutor added that Corona's actions left more questions than answers.

For example, if he earned so much from his dollar investments, why did Corona have to sell a property to his daughter Carla for P19 million?

Why did the Chief Justice need to borrow P11 million from the proceeds of the sale of a parcel of land owned by Basa-Goldcrest Enterprises Inc. (BGEI) to the city government of Manila? BGEI is owned by the family of Corona's wife.

Why did he once have a car loan of P800,000?

If Corona earned so much from his dollar investments, why did he not use this to buy a car in cash?

Fariñas also noted that Corona had told Senate President

CORONA A11

FARIÑAS: Only banks are bound by the confidentiality provision of the Foreign Currency Deposits Act.

'No need to declare dollars'

EVIDLE: His questions seem to augur ill for Chief Justice Renato Corona when the Senate impeachment court hands down its verdict today.

Secrecy absolute, defense insists

By Christian V. Esguerra

DEFENSE lawyers yesterday contended that Chief Justice Renato Corona was under no legal obligation to declare his dollar deposits and even if he was called upon by law to do so and did not comply, this was not an impeachable offense.

Lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles said that Corona could not be held liable for not declaring his bank deposit of $2.4 million in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) "because he believes in all good faith in the absolute confidentiality of foreign currency deposits."

"The defense has shown that the Chief Justice relied on

MOVIDEO A11

CUEVAS: Is mere inaccuracy in SALN an impeachable offense?

'Lack of evidence calls for acquittal'

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona's defense lawyers yesterday made one last pitch for his acquittal, saying his conviction "arises not from the object lack of evidence against him, but from his conduct wholly consistent with a clear conscience."

Led by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas, the defense panel answered each of the allegations made by House prosecutors in the remaining three articles of impeachment. Five of the articles were earlier withdrawn.

The closing arguments of both the defense and the prosecutors centered on Corona's failure to declare $2.4 million in deposits—his supposed savings since the '80s—in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs).

"Truly, your honors, you are called upon to judge a man who has proven why he is the Chief Justice," defense lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles told the court. "The defense counsels and I respectfully request that you render a verdict of acquittal."

The defense pointed to

JACK A11

JPE: What does 'culpa' mean?

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile had the last word in the closing arguments yesterday, but he left the question hanging on whether Chief Justice Renato Corona willfully and intentionally fudged his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and should be convicted.

Before adjourning yesterday, Enrile bombarded the defense lawyers with a series of questions over their contention the alleged nondeclaration and misdeclaration of certain assets and bank deposits in the Chief Justice's SALNs did not amount to an impeachable offense.

"What injury or prejudice may arise if a depositor, who is a public officer or employee, of a foreign currency deposit would include that deposit or the amount represented by that deposit in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth?" Enrile asked.

The lead defense counsel, Serafin Cuevas, replied that he

ENRILE A11

Church, Palace to accept verdict

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court will accept "whatever verdict" the Senate impeachment court will render in the case of Chief Justice Renato Corona, a justice of the highest court said yesterday.

Malacañang, which had been campaigning for Corona's removal from office, said it, too, would accept any decision that the Senate would hand down.

Associate Justice Martin Villarama Jr., who has been assigned to write the Supreme Court ruling on Corona's petition to stop his impeachment, told reporters that the draft of his decision was ready, but he partially agreed with a reporter that it could be recused by the Senate's decision, which is expected today.

"We'll accept anything. We'll accept the verdict. Whatever it is, we'll accept it," Villarama said.

But he added: "If there are adjustments to be made, we will try our best to serve the Filipino people and the nation. It's hard if there's no justice. That cannot be shattered."

CHURCH A10

Robredo clears Chief Justice

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A DET of good news for Chief Justice Renato Corona, who is now on tenterhooks as he awaits his conviction or acquittal by the Senate impeachment court.

ROBREDO A10

Guam Welcomes Resorts World Manila

"It's More Fun in the Philippines", as the foremost integrated tourism destination extends its campaign to beautiful Guam, in support of the Department of Tourism's thrust to invite guests to the country.

Pursuant to mobile service (Lamoot's "What's Your Idea of Fun!" campaign, Resorts World Manila presents to Guam its own brand of "fun" with a variety of lifestyle alternatives in its grand estate of premier hotels, a sumptuous line of international cuisines, diverse entertainment, a great shopping experience, complemented by the renowned Filipino hospitality.

Heads from various Guam-based organizations, have also expressed support to Resorts World Manila's campaign thru long-term partnerships which aim to introduce the prime tourist locale to the people of Guam.

For more information, visit www.rwmanila.com or call the Tourist/Visitor Hotline (632) 834-6333.

(L-R) Resorts World Manila Executive VP Stephen Reilly, Vivian Mendiola Reconciliation Task Force Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio and Miss Shalee Brinsley and Connect Chief Business Development Officer Marc Ejper)

SPORTS

Spurs draw first blood, down Thunder in Game 1 / A19

BUSINESS

Debt payments down 14% in 4 months/ B1

LIFESTYLE

Makati Medical Center now offering stem cell therapy / C1

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

	2 PM	4 PM	7 PM	10 PM
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

2D (2:00 PM draw)
4D 10 19
3D 4 24
2D 1 4

SUERTRES (2:00 PM draw)
4D 7 3 4
3D 1 1 3
2D 2 5 4

4D (4:00 PM draw) 7 2 9 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
19 22 26 27 31 32
P25,409,129.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
13 22 23 29 32 50
P43,162,229.60

China alarmed by Clinton's comments

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CHINA has expressed concern about remarks made by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who said that Beijing's claim in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) exceeded what was permitted by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

In a report posted yesterday on its website, the Chinese Embassy in Makati City quoted Hong Lei, spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry as saying that China had raised concerns about Clinton's opinion when other countries had chosen to adopt a hands-off policy on the issue.

"On the issue of the South China Sea, non-claimant (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries and countries outside the region have adopted a positive or not getting involved in territorial disputes," Hong said.

"On this important governance and foundation, the Chinese side has consistently committed to safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea, explain by stance, such as negotiating and signing with Asean countries the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in parallel with our efforts to pursue dispute settlement through negotiations with countries directly concerned," she said.

Two Democratic senators—John Kerry and Barbara Boxer—also criticized China's claims in the West Philippine Sea at last week's hearing of the US Senate committee on foreign relations.

Illegal claims

Kerry, the panel chair, said "China and other countries are staking out illegal claims to the South China Sea and elsewhere."

Boxer produced a map that showed that China's claims exceeded far beyond its 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone provided for in Unclos and amounted to a "significant territorial grab that comes very close to the land borders of countries in the region."

China, which is among the 160-plus nations that are party to Unclos that was concluded in 1982 and has been in force since 1994, has made expansive claims in the West Philippine Sea based mainly on ancient maps.

A map that China submitted to the UN in 2009 virtually claimed the entire West Philippine Sea. However, it failed to clarify the exact extent of its claims that overlap those of Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines.

According to the Chinese embassy, Hong also expressed concern about Manila's supposed attempts to involve third parties in its conflict with Beijing over the Huangyan (Scarborough Shoal also Bajo de Masinloc in the Philippines) and Kuangnan Islands in China.

"Kuangnan has by the Philippine side is also a third party into interfering or intervening through whatever means in Huangyan Island will surely escalate the situation and meet with firm opposition from the Chinese side," Hong said.

Provocative actions

She also claimed that "the Philippine side has taken many provocative actions recently in the Huangyan Island waters, and the Chinese side has correspondingly strengthened management and control measures."

"It was learned that the Huangyan Island waters is now stable on the whole. About 20 Chinese fishing boats are working in the area and the number is basically the same with that in the same period of previous years. The so-called around 100 boats are mostly one-person dinghies from the fishing boats," she said.

Hong pointed out the operators of these fishing boats are in fact acts related Chinese laws and China's fishing moratorium.

"China's public service ships are exercising strict supervision over these fishing boats to prevent any law-breaking operation," she said.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario expressed confidence that the Philippines could settle the Panatag Shoal dispute with China, as well as other West Philippine Sea-related issues, during what he called the Department of Foreign Affairs' comprehensive "second plan."

Del Rosario pointed out that the Chinese were "in violation of the Asean Declaration on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea when they are preventing us from entering our lawful EEZ."

According to the DFA head, they had "broken up the overall pies into diplomatic or political, legal and defense tracks."

Political track

For the political track, he said the countries would continue to push for the cumulative creation of the West Philippine Sea into a zone of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation, where Manila would observe a rules-based approach to all disputes in accordance with Unclos.

For the legal track, the DFA plans to continue coordinating with other government agencies concerned as it resorts to a dispute-settlement mechanism under Unclos.

For the defense track, Del Rosario said the foreign office had committed to help improve national defense by building a minimum credible defense posture to protect the country's territorial integrity.

Del Rosario told the lawyers that aside from the United States, at least three other countries—Japan, South Korea and Australia—were also helping the Philippines establish that defense posture.

GOV'T WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

ARE WE READY FOR THE 2013 MIDTERM ELECTIONS?

Almost lost in the drama of the impeachment trial of the Chief Justice is the fact that **we are barely a year from the 2013 midterm elections.**

Despite the Comelec's repeated pronouncements that all preparations for the 2013 elections are proceeding on schedule, persistent doubts exist, especially with regards the PCOS machines that have been bought from Smartmatic.

GOV'T WATCH is urging the Comelec to demonstrate to the public that they have addressed the glitches in the PCOS machines.

GOV'T WATCH recommends the following:

1. **Comelec to do an actual simulation or mock elections using the updated and corrected PCOS machines.** This will demonstrate that all the glitches and issues raised by the Comelec Advisory Council have been addressed.

   Chairperson Cora dela Paz and NAMFREL and other civic groups together with Gov't Watch (formerly COPW) will help set up this simulation in selected areas all over the country. Gov't Watch Chairman Raul T. Concepcion has pledged to use his companies' 48 provincial offices as coordinators for this simulation.

2. **Representatives from Smartmatic** should be present during the simulation and during the actual elections in 2013.

3. Smartmatic should appraise the Comelec of new technologies that may be available to further ensure the foolproofness, speed and accuracy in the tabulation and reporting of election results.

4. **Rethink the practice of consolidated voting centers** as this is open to manipulation. At the very least, Comelec should publish where these consolidated voting centers are located.

5. Comelec must act immediately on nuisance candidates, declaring them as such as early as possible and post the same in the Comelec web site.

THE UNQUESTIONED RELIABILITY AND CREDIBILITY OF OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM COULD BE PRESIDENT AQUINO'S MOST IMPORTANT LEGACY, aside from his campaign against corruption and promoting accountability in government.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Your comments or suggestions on this issue are important to us:

Do you Agree or Disagree that COMELEC must conduct a demonstration of the updated PCOS Machines so that the public is assured that our automated election system will allow good and accountable governance to continue beyond 2013?

GOV'T WATCH would like to get your comments or suggestions on it.
Please send your views and comments to GOV'T WATCH
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THE PEOPLE'S VERDICT: GUILTY!

 # 1: CORONA DID NOT DECLARE CLOSE TO **200 MILLION PESOS** IN CASH

Corona has admitted that he did not declare close to **200 Million pesos** in cash. **2.4 Million Dollars** in foreign currency deposits and **80 Million pesos** in peso deposits. This is a blatant violation of the Constitution and the Law on Accountability of Public officials. How can we trust someone who has clearly hidden a staggering amount of wealth from the people?

 # 2: CORONA DID NOT PROPERLY DECLARE HIS PROPERTIES

He did not declare 3 properties in his 2010 SALN because they were allegedly sold to his daughter, Carla, and her husband. The 3 properties were supposedly bought for 18 million, 10 million and 15 million pesos despite the fact that Carla's taxable income at that time was only about **8,500** pesos.

His condominium unit in The Columns in Makati City was only declared in his SALN in 2010 even when the Deed of Sale was allegedly executed in 2004. Prior to 2010, no cash or property value was declared in his SALN for the amount of the unit, which was bought for 4 million pesos.

 # 3: CORONA'S EXPLANATIONS ARE UNBELIEVABLE AND BORDERING ON RIDICULOUS

Corona's attempt to explain his undeclared wealth is unbelievable.

He told us an elaborate story of him investing in dollars since the late 60's when he was only a college student.

He said he was able to earn significant interest from his dollar investments but everyone who invests in dollars knows that the interest on dollar deposits is even lower than an ordinary savings account and is less than 1% per year.

Corona's claim that out of the **80 million pesos** in deposits that he did not declare, **over 70 million pesos** is not his money but belongs to his daughter (who's income tax return is only P 8,500 pesos) and the family corporation of his wife, is downright ridiculous.

And by the way, all his explanations are not supported by any documents whatsoever.

GIVEN THESE REASONS, WE BELIEVE CORONA IS UNFIT TO REMAIN AS CHIEF JUSTICE AND....

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Second time's a charm for Miss Philippines-Earth

By Armin Adina

LUZELDE the second time around is probably the best way to describe German Filipino model Stephanie Stefanowitz who bagged the Miss Philippines-Earth title on her second attempt, beating 56 other contenders in the fast-paced pageant held Sunday night.

Stefanowitz was a semifinalist in the 2011 national pageant, where she represented Quezon City. This year, she represented Quezon City in the contest held at the SM Mall of Asia's Conrad Stage in Pasay City.

The 22-year-old Fashion Design and Merchandising graduate from the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde was also pocketed Best in Long Gown and one of the Best in Swimsuit and Best in Styling. She received her title from last year's winner, Athena Imperial, who was proclaimed Miss Earth-Water in last year's international competition held in the Philippines. Stefanowitz will represent the country in the global Miss Earth pageant in Indonesia later this year.

Placing second with the title Miss Philippines-Earth was Tabuk City's Jennifer Perido, who was earlier proclaimed Best in Resort Wear. Miss Golden Screen Award and Miss Darling.

San Juan's Samantha Purvoc, a Sports Science major at the University of the Philippines, placed third and was crowned Miss Philippines-Water. She earlier bagged awards in various preliminary competitions: Best in Swimsuit, Standing Sticky Bryce, Miss Eucalyptus, Miss Pantaleon Fernandez, and Miss Zenaya Glamorous and Body Development. She was also one of three contestants considered as Best in Runway.

Puerto Princesa's Therese Halverson placed fourth and was proclaimed Miss Philippines-Fire, while Mary Caroline Bacosa, a student from Cebu, was named Miss Philippines-Ecotourism.

This year's panel of judges was composed of "Bond girl" Rachel Grant, Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Mexican Cosmo'lite Product Specialist Antonio Israel TV-movie personality Empress Schuck, and Philippine Airlines entrepreneur Bruce McClelland, the proponent of handmade bamboo bicycles.

Winning Rare Asia 2" runners-up Mary Selyne and Bevilyn Pettersen shared hosting chores with TV reporter and host Antoni Lanot-cubbed.

The discreet caravan started rolling out across the country on May 15 and will move to various locations nationwide until June 30.

Lozano said the caravan is part of the government's drive to make quality school supplies available to the public at affordable prices.

"With interagency coordination and with support from local manufacturers and private business groups, we can offer huge discounts on school supplies essentials for the public schools," the DepEd chief said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

He said the DTI will publish its national breakdown and its dates on widely distributed flyers. DepEd suggested retail prices of school supplies to serve as a guide to the buying public.

Sec. Lozano reminded the public about the advice of the DTI's Bureau of Product Standards not to look for "nonessential" labels on school supplies, the Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday advised parents and students.

Check out as well the Department of Trade and Industry's "Diskwento Caravan" where quality school supplies are available at discounted prices at at least 10 percent off. Education Secretary Armin Luistro added.

"Huwag na kayong maghanap ng mga label na 'nonessential' labels on school supplies, the Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday advised parents and students.

Check out as well the Department of Trade and Industry's "Diskwento Caravan" where quality school supplies are available at discounted prices at at least 10 percent off. Education Secretary Armin Luistro added.

"BARTHY" BEAUTIES Newly crowned Miss Philippines-Earth 2012 Stephanie Sharon Stefanowitz (center), with her court. From left, Miss Vigan City Mary Caroline Bacosa, Miss Eco-tourism; Miss San Juan City Samantha Purvoc, Miss Water; Miss Tabuk City Jennifer Perido, Miss Air, and Miss Puerto Princesa Therese Halverson, Miss Fire.

Filipino representatives with foreign lineage have posted big wins in the Miss Earth pageant in the past. Canadian-Filipina Karla Henry bagged the top plum in 2008, while German-Filipina Gundam Jenkins placed second in 2009 and was proclaimed Miss Earth-Air.

During the final question-and-answer round, pageant judge Aimé asked what superpower Stephanie-wise wished to have to save the earth.

The Quezon City representative replied, "Definitely, I would like to have the power to help clean up the whole environment. My advocacy is the conservation and preservation of our environment, not only for ourselves but, of course, for the future generations as well. As a campers, it is my wish to help realize here today's decisions affect tomorrow's generation."

As the year's titleholder, Stephanie-only won a P250,000 management contract from pageant organizer Carousel Productions, a P1-million scholarship from the Metropolitan Medical Center College of Arts, Sciences and Technology, P100,000 worth of services from Beverly Hills 6758, P50,000 worth of jewelry from St. Dominic Jewelry, a 5-night stay at the Bel-Air Suite of Best Western's Premier Fl Hotel, as well as products and services from pageant sponsors Gold's Gym, Ever Bilena cosmetics, Alberto Shoes, Charena and Crystals by Joy Lim's. Swelling a grand prize of air conditioners, Sanyo Fisher Shoes, Amore Cosmetic Surgery and Cocon.

DepEd advice: Buy nontoxic supplies, patronize discount caravan

By Mike Calleja

TAKE advantage of cheaper and discounted prices, but make sure to look for "nontoxic" labels on school supplies, the Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday advised parents and students.

Check out as well the Department of Trade and Industry's "Diskwento Caravan" where quality school supplies are available at discounted prices at at least 10 percent off, Education Secretary

For the month of June, the caravan is set to kick off on June 1 in Tuguegarao City and Zamboanga del Norte.

Region III will have a six-day schedule for the caravan on June 3, 6, 8, 13 and 18 in Angeles City, Aurora, Tarlac, Bataan, Bacolor, Villasenor, Tacloban City, Leyte, on the capitol grounds in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, and at the Pasig City Hall. Region IV will be in San Jose del Monte in May, as the caravan parks at Plaza Pershing in Zamboanga City, on May 30-31.

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Indonesian nabbed for drugs

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Donna Pazzibugan

AN INDONESIAN national was caught carrying 3.71 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Sunday.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) media and public affairs office identified the suspected drug mule as Francesca Jovian, said to be a native of Jakarta.

Jovian, 33, a passenger on Cebu Pacific flight 5J 111, flew in from Hong Kong and was arrested by MIAA police shortly after 1 p.m. when the Manila carrier landed at Terminal 3.

The illegal drugs were reportedly found in Jovian's handcarry bag.

The suspect was turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA) and will be charged with violation of section 5 of Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

Lt. Demetrio Sison, head of the MIAA police intelligence and investigation division, said PDEA "automatically handles all drug-related cases" at all NAIA terminals.

PDEA spokesperson Evangelista Abenasen said Jovian was turned over for inquest Monday afternoon at the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

Do not recklessly undergo surgery when it comes to cancer;
Cryotherapy can kill cancer cells!

A huge number of cancer patients in most part of Asia have surgery attention in treating tumor yet majority of these cancer patients had already lost their best chance to undergo surgery the time they found out that they were diagnosed with cancer. This is so because the removal of the tumor does not give any assurance that the cancer cells around the tumor are completely obliterated. Recurrence and metastasis are still possible and the trouble does not end even after radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

A breakthrough in the history of cancer treatment can now be chronicled upon in warning that the tumor would be killed directly through the use of accurate, reliable, and high-precision equipment. Ar-Ma Kuan Cryoablation is a modern treatment which according to Professor Ding Xuanlin, the chief scientist of Guangzhou Medow Cancer Hospital, is a freezing technique that is not only precise but reliable as well. As the knife is actually composed of needles with diameter of 2.4mm. The procedure involves the insertion of the needles into the center of the tumor with the aid of CT scan and fluoroscopy (immediately after). Argon gas is applied to rapidly bring down the temperature within the tumor and freeze the tumor into an ice ball. After the lapse of 10 to 15 minutes, Helium gas is filled in next to restore the temperature within the tumor to 20°C. The process was done a number of times in order to destroy the tumor tissues. Moreover, it was also meant to achieve a prompt pain relief, reduce tumor burden, control tumor growth, improve the quality of life and at the same time stimulate and strengthen the immune system of the patient. The operation which took only an hour was a success. The patient did not feel any pain and was awake during the process. After the surgery, an suture was needed, and the patient was able to get out of bed the next day. Cryotherapy for the lung was followed by the Cryotherapy for the liver after a week. It was such a great relief on the part of the patient. Moreover, after the entire procedure, there is no need for the total CT scan showed that the tumor in the lung and liver had necrosis and could not be seen by the naked eye.

The miracle of cryotherapy worked well in the case of a 71 year old man and it would surely be a great wonder if the same would work in other patients medically stranded.

If you have experience such matters concerning cancer treatments and its complications, call 8222222, 0915-8452684, 0922-8083333 or visit Unit A-1102, 6780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Website: www.ar-ma.com.ph

needles were inserted into the tumor within the lung through percutaneous puncture. This was followed by the infusion of Argon gas to rapidly achieve extremely low temperature and freeze the tumor. After 15 minutes, Helium gas was utilized in order to restore the temperature within the tumor to 20°C. The process was done a number of times in order to destroy the tumor tissues. Moreover, it was also meant to achieve a prompt pain relief, reduce tumor burden, control tumor growth, improve the quality of life and at the same time stimulate and strengthen the immune system of the patient. The operation which took only an hour was a success. The patient did not feel any pain and was awake during the process. After the surgery, an suture was needed, and the patient was able to get out of bed the next day. Cryotherapy for the lung was followed by the Cryotherapy for the liver after a week. It was such a great relief on the part of the patient. Moreover, after the entire procedure, there is no need for the total CT scan showed that the tumor in the lung and liver had necrosis and could not be seen by the naked eye.

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Socorro R. Villaviray; 77

SOCORRO Inde Villaviray died on May 26 in Xiangfan, Hainan. She was 77.

She was the mother of John on, Villaviray-Gallagher, a reporter at The Asahi Shimbun.

She is survived by her children Jeanette and Augusto, Jaime and Jr. and Jacqueline, Adriana and Alvin; grandchildren John, Jaime, Alex, Ryan Nicole, Austin, EJ, Bryan, Bebe, Rain, Laila and Eric, and great-grandchild.

Interment will be held at 1 p.m. today in the old cemetery in Xiangfan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday - May 29, 2012
8th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1Pt 1: 10-16
Gospel: Mk 10: 28-31

This was the solemn for which the prophets so eagerly looked when, in their zeal, they fervently inquired what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ present within them pointed out the time and the circumstances of this—the sufferings of Christ and the glories which would follow.

It was revealed to them that they were ministering not for themselves but for you. Thus, in these days, after the Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven, the Gospel's preachers have taught you these mysteries which even the angels long to see.

So, then, set your spirit to work; be alert, with confidence rest in the grace you will receive when Jesus Christ appears. Like obedient children, do not return to your former life given over to ignorance and passions. Imitate the one who called you. As he is holy so you, too, be holy in all your conduct, since Scripture says: Be holy for I am holy.

Gospel:

Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "We have given up everything to follow you." Jesus answered, "Truly, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters, or father or mother, or children, or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times as much now, in this present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."

Reflection:

The Apostles Peter were pulls back. As he arrives with a rather crude question? "What is in this for us?" The gospel of wealth! Alfie would find the question quite normal! For we are in need of everything. It is fulfill to repent God to reward us for our efforts? And what of that endless talk about eternal reward?

NEWEST AT THE PORT Bonifacio High Street Central becoming high-end shops, restaurants and offices in Bonifacio Global City was inaugurated recently with Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Ayala Land executives and their partners in attendance, among them, from left, Taguig City representative Jose Bocobo and FBDC officers director John Tan, chair Butch Campos, vice chair Fernando Zobel, president Tony Aquino and director Arnel Casanova.

Mindanao on Binay agenda in Malaysia

By Jerry E. Esplanada

DILG President Jejomar Binay will actively promote Mindanao as an investment destination when he addresses the Philippines-Malaysia Investment Partnership Seminar today in Kuala Lumpur.

Binay, the country's keynote speaker, yesterday said his speech would be "proof of the government's determination to bring more investments, stimulate economic growth and generate more jobs in the southern Philippines."

In a statement, Binay expressed confidence that ARMM "will be able to capture the interest of the Malaysian business community."

The business forum is "expected to further boost the strong economic ties between the Philippines and Malaysia," he said.

He said he "expects around 300 business leaders and investors from the Philippines and Malaysia to come together to exchange ideas on how to further enhance the already dynamic economic partnership between our two countries."

9th largest trading partner

"Malaysia is the Philippines' ninth largest trading partner with total trade amounting to almost $3.6 billion, meanwhile, our country is Malaysia's 12th largest export market with trade valued at $2.4 billion," he noted.

"During the forum, the Philippine delegation will highlight investment opportunities in tourism, infrastructure, energy and electricity, Islamic banking and finance, processed food, information technology, business process outsourcing and allied services, electronics and automotive parts and components," the vice President said.

While in the Malaysian capital, Binay will meet with top government officials, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato Sri Mustapa Mohamed and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato Sri Anifah Aman, as well as former Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Binay is also scheduled to meet with executives of the Malaysian firm Berjaya Corp.

Newly renovated embassy

He has also been asked to grace the opening of the newly renovated Philippine Embassy.

"Our ambassador (J. Eduardo Malaya) has asked me to grace the inauguration of the newly renovated embassy. And in keeping with my role as presidential adviser on OFW concerns, I will hold a dialogue with the Filipino community to check on their living and working conditions here and find out how the government could further extend assistance to them in their homes in the Philippines," he said.

In an earlier statement, Binay described his official visit as "excellent opportunity to bring the good news about the Philippines to the leaders and ranking officials of Malaysia."

On hand to welcome him Sunday night at Kuala Lumpur International Airport were Ambassador Malaya, Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Dato Sri Ibrahim Saad and Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister A. Kohilan Pillay.

From Malaysia, Binay will fly to the United Arab Emirates for "four official and private meetings" from May 30 to June 4. He will head home just as President Aquino leaves for the US himself for a meeting with President Barack Obama.

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'PH needs to do more to stop rights abuse'

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE government must have taken steps to protect human rights in the country but it needs to step up its game.

This was the emerging view among local and international groups, including the United States (US), on the human rights situation in the Philippines, in the country's underwent review and round of a universal periodic review before the United Nations Human Rights Council today.

"While significant progress has been made in the area of human rights, more needs to be done to effectively tackle disappearances, notably in the areas of impunity, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances," US ambassador Gary Lichtenstein reminded.

Lichtenstein said the country's justice system needed to be strengthened to improve the human rights situation, and the judicial process must be completed in due end.

"It is my conviction that in order to deter human rights abuses, a strong, effective, enforceable and accessible justice system is crucial. If justice is done by means of a thorough and fair process and followed by the conviction of criminals, this will send a strong signal to potential perpetrators that they will be punished for their crimes," he said.

Lichtenstein spoke at a meeting between EU ambassadors and members of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) who gave an update on an EU-funded project to raise awareness on torture and violence against women and children.

Under the project, the TFDP documented numerous cases of torture and conducted seminars on human rights among farmers and the urban poor to teach them how to document cases of torture, among other activities.

While Ledesma pointed out that the Philippines' justice system faced personnel and problems, such as lack of resources and a dearth of judges, he insisted that the Philippine government had made important efforts to tackle economic, social and cultural rights.

The government, he said, has doubled its education budget and has worked to reduce poverty by increasing the budget for education, health and social security.

International groups Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International (AI) also heaped lashing the government's action against human rights violations in their report. But the progress it has made in terms of ratifying international conventions and promises to institutional law, among other things.

Ledesma acknowledged as well the Philippines' ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

But Sister Eva Lysova of the TFDP said that the group had seen no clear policy on human rights from the Aquino administration.

"The government has been focused on ending corruption to the detriment of addressing impunity," Lysova said, adding that not one case of extrajudicial killing has been addressed.

AI Philippine director Jacqueline Pascual similarly lamented the government's slow progress in holding perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable to the point that they have no fear of prosecution and punishment.

In an earlier forum at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Marie Mons of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates echoed the weak structure of command responsibility in the country and the shift to command occupancy where officers and the rank and file collaborate to cover up human rights violations. Police and military forces continue to be the top human rights violators, he said.

UP's Clem Lorilla Wamfor has acknowledged that impunity remains a "glaring problem." She said that while the Aquino administration had made a "serious effort" to correct human rights violations resulting in fewer reported disappearances, there remained the problem of "voluntary disappearances" among people accused of crimes.

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P-Noy won't get full pension

By Christian O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said he did not expect to receive a full pension until after his term ends.

But before that term ends, P-Noy appears more reluctant than he would want in wider services and more benefits for government workers, he told employees in government ranking the 75th anniversary of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) held at the GSIS grounds in Pasay City.

He said this when he came into office in 2010, he made sure the GSIS mandate would be strengthened, noting that the institution had become a tool of some people who were behind government money "for their own selfish agenda."

"After two years, we now feel the reforms...under investors and more benefits for the 1.7 million members and pensioners of the GSIS," he said.

Among these reforms, he said, are the 500 automated processing centers kiosks...are up with the help of the National Statistics Office and local civil registers...for the benefit of aged and ailing GSIS members who find difficulty in going to the institution's main office to transact business.

Members can also get their loans and benefits through the 1,000 automated teller machines (ATMs) of Landbank and 224 ATMs of the Union Bank of the Philippines, the President said.

Aside from this, there are more people who can receive survivorship benefits, in that no one owns the employed spouse of a deceased member or members who had received pensions from other institutions," he said.

The President also said the National Museum will soon take over the administration of the GSIS elaborate art collection so that the institution can concentrate on its original mandate.

"My appeal is for you to remain focused on your mandate. Let us continue working well and for sure, we can go far," he told the GSIS employees.

Mr. Aquino also disclosed that the government would, with the help of the GSIS, will release P20 billion—"the biggest fund it will put out for the country's infrastructure," in July.

The President said the government must walk hand in hand with the Philippine government Alliance for Infrastructure, where the GSIS will lead in establishing the fund that will be managed by the Macquarie Group.

Storms brewing in ocean

THE PACIFIC Ocean is starting to get busy, with two disturbances expected to enhance local weather this week.

Lanie Lee, weather specialist at the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said a low pressure area had formed near Caroline Islands while a personal tropical storm was brewing east of Mindanao.

The LPA in Caroline Islands is not expected to become a tropical storm, according to forecaster Samuel Duran. He described the LPA as "shallow" and said it "would not affect Metro Manila."

The disturbance, which was spotted 270 kilometers southeast of Virac, Catanduanes, early on Monday morning, would bring overcast skies and rains over the Bicol region, however, Pagasa said.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau said it was closely monitoring a cluster of activities in the country that is seen to intensify in the coming days.

Duran said residents infamous this low pressure area could become a tropical depression by Thursday and enter the country's area of responsibility.

If it does so, it would be the first tropical cyclone to enter the country this year and would be named "Isang," he said. So far, the disturbance is not to affect the Philippines, he added.

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On Flag Day, use of pop icons urged to spread patriotism

MANILA, CITY—Like pop culture references, like the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean," interactive visual and sound effects, as well as more recent events like the takeover of the Oakwood hotel in Makati by a group of rebel soldiers, to help today's young people appreciate the country's revolutionary struggles for independence.

As suggested Emilio Aguinaldo Series III, a great-grandson of the first president of the Philippine republic Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, during yesterday's National Flag Day celebrations at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Cavite, the country's Emilio Aguinaldo Museum in Makati City.

Emilio said the "Pirates" movie featured a black swashbuckler flag on the mast of the pirate's ship, which resembled one of the banners waddled by the Katipuneros during the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

This first part is the information, to the result and it may help contribute to them the virtue of patriotism, he said.

The information could also help a new generation (hampton the original) Philippine Flag, which is now under the care of the Santiago family in the memory sacred.

The original flag has a sun in the middle that features of same colors, bleached in gold (based in the phrase "Famous Expedition ensis del Sonte de Layaa" on one side of the flag and the words "Libertad" and "Justicia" on the other.

The family has taken custody of the old flag on behalf of Aguinaldo's daughter Cándida, who discovered it tucked under the bed's mattress in 1964.

The Emilio Aguinaldo Museum has dedicated beyond repair, leading the Shrine family to lament that today's youth may be the last generation to see the authentic revolutionary flag.

Acknowledging that today's youth need to understand the legacy of the original flag, Santiago has entrusted the Aguinaldo Museum to an interactive showroom depicting the story of the Philippine Revolution through artworks, as well as visual and sound effects.

Evelyn Tadeo, a leader at Bayan City Service High School, a residents and pop culture to emphasize historical events—like the world's paper on the revolution's numerous flags at yesterday's flag-raising ceremony.

Tadeo noted that the shrill and cross-bones on the flag featured in the Johnny Depp's movie were those of Gen. Mariano Llanera's Flag in Wawa Dingo.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Dy denies hand in charges vs Padaca

CALAMBA CITY—Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III said he firmly had no part in the filing of criminal charges in the Sandiganbayan against former Gov. Grace Padaca in connection with the alleged improper financing of a hybrid rice program in 2006.

"Who are we to meddle in the case?" he said. "She (Padaca) has been a close ally of the (President Ferdinand) Marcoses. It means that whoever is the sitting president, the wheel of justice is rolling just like in the criminal case against her. Why is she turning the tables on us?"

Dy was reacting to allegations made by Padaca and the Bayo Nacial Movement that the criminal charges filed against her were part of a political strategy to have her out of Isabela politics.

She faces arrest on a warrant issued by the Sandiganbayan antigraft court.

"The order for her arrest emanated from the Sandiganbayan and we did not have any hand in that issue," Dy said.

Padaca and several officers of a non-government organization were accused of mishandling government funds before the antigraft court.

The former governor allegedly allowed the NGO Economic Development for Western Isabela and Northern Luzon Foundation (Edwinfil) to make hybrid rice loans from a P23-million fund in 2006 without a public bidding.

Former Isabela Rep. Santiago Respicio, a Dy ally, filed the suit against Padaca. Rosas rows Vice Mayor Servando Soriano, who was Edwinfil chair and president; foundation manager Dionisio Pino and the late Johnas Lamorena.

Padaca said the project benefited the province's major towns, whose hybrid rice production made them some of Cagayan's biggest producers.

But Dy said this was an erroneous premise.

"Who says 10 towns were made big rice producers? Some of those towns like San Mariano are not even top rice producers, but I had been planning their farms so," he said in a text message.

Padaca, a former broadcast journalist, defeated the governor's elder brother, Faustino Dy Jr., in the 2004 gubernatorial race. It was the first election loss suffered by the Dy family in years.

She ran for a second term in 2007, although the Commission on Elections (Comelec) ruled that Benjamin Dy, another brother of the governor, had won by a 1,351-vote margin.

Padaca challenged the Comelec ruling in the Supreme Court. She subsequently lost to the current governor, Faustino Dy III, in the 2010 elections. Hilarion Pinaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Acosta's aunt won't testify against him

THE AUNT of presidential adviser Ninotsa Acosta has changed her mind about testifying against her nephew in their graft case before the Sandiganbayan, and has withdrawn her application to earn state's evidence.

In a manifestation and motion filed by her lawyers in the antigraft court's Fourth Division, Teresita Bernaldez said she had decided not to testify against Acosta in the name of peace and justice.

Bernaldez said she arrived at her decision after a thorough consultation with her lawyer.

Asking the Sandiganbayan to note that it was unnecessary to be a witness against a co-accused, she said justice shall best be served if she is allowed from becoming state witness.

Bernaldez and Acosta have been charged with graft for the alleged improper release of P2.5 million in financial assistance from then Representative Acosta's Priority Development Assistance Fund or pork barrel to the Bulacan Integrated Network of Home Industries Inc. (Binhi), a nongovernment organization in which Bernaldez was a project coordinator.

The crimes took place in 2003, when, according to the complainant Jean Makilalon.

Bernaldez had applied to be a state witness last year, a plea which the Office of the Ombudsman approved. The Sandiganbayan was then asked to accept her as a state witness.

The Ombudsman's Office of the Special Prosecutor, in asking that Bernaldez be made a state witness, had said that she could testify on Acosta's actual participation in the operations of Binhi, including the identification of projects, determination of amounts of funds and donee, and actual use of the funds. Julie B. Salaverria

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May 1 to July 31, 2012

Defense keeps open its option of seeking SC relief

By Marlon Ramos

WILL Chief Justice Renato Corona seek the intervention of his colleagues on the Supreme Court if the Senate convicts him today?

His lawyers differ sharply on the strategy.

Jennifer Carroll, leader of Corona's defense team, said on Sunday that his group would not rule out legal options available, including bringing a petition for certiorari (review) to the Supreme Court—if the low-rise impeachment court found the Chief Justice guilty of violating the Constitution.

Yesterday, however, Carroll declined to explain his statement after Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile told him at the start of the proceedings that the Senate was the only body authorized by the Constitution to try impeachment cases.

"Let's just wait for the decision. It's too early for us to say [certiorari]," Carroll told reporters.

"I'm only a lawyer and the rules provided in [Chief Justice Corona's] case have to be in consultation with him," he added.

Asked for the reasons if the decision was still considering going to the Supreme Court if Corona was convicted, Carroll said: "Don't ask me that. I won't answer your questions anymore."

In an interview with reporters last week, Carroll said the defense thought that the Supreme Court could find the "independent" of the impeachment trial "if politically we can successfully make a case of grave abuse of discretion."

Corona said: "The Supreme Court may be respectful, will assume[that the Senate's verdict was unsupportable, he said: 'That's what they say, that is there any jurisprudence to that effect?'

"We're not saying (that we would want to nullify the decision, but nullify the proceedings] that stranded to the decision of the court," Corona said.

Respect Senate decision

But Eduardo de los Angeles, a senior member of Corona's legal team, disagreed with Corona, saying it would be better for the Chief Justice to respect the Senate's ruling Yesterday good of the country."

"It's his own view. That was never discussed with any of us," De los Angeles said.

Asked if the defense would run to the Supreme Court if the Senate handed down a decision against Corona, De los Angeles replied, "I don't think so."

"Either there are very compelling reasons, I think we should accept the decision," De los Angeles said. "As of now, my position is, 'Let's accept the decision of the Senate.' It's also not good for the country."

As to authority of the Supreme Court to review the Senate's decision, De los Angeles said that under the Constitution, the Senate was the "sole judge" of any impeachment proceedings.

"What's stated in the Constitution] is sole judge," Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's lawyer said. "The selection of the Senate should decide [impeachment cases]," he said.

De los Angeles, a former dean of Ateneo de Manila University's law school, admitted that the defense discussed the possibility of reaching out to the Supreme Court in the early part of the trial.

"Whatever happens, I think we all should stop," he said. "The (government] should just do what we're supposed to do to improve and develop the country. It's Mother is happening. We're in a mess[ed]."

No decision

Ramon Esguerra, another defense lawyer, said Corona's legal team had yet to decide the Supreme Court option.

"We haven't seen the form of the vote of each individual senator," Esguerra said. "[Impeachment] was entirely that we sent email [members] of, we have not discussed it as a group."

He also noted that the Constitution is vested the Senate sitting as the impeachment court, adding do not say that the decision should be final and executory.

"Maybe the judgment of the former should raise (if the ruling is final and executory," he said.

But Carmelo Lazatin Jose Flor III, lawyer who can be seen the defense to think about the Chief Justice's legal remedy because "I'm confident that the decision would be to acquittal."

"But I'm always fearful about the certainty that this is not a court of Live," Flor said. "So we owe humble opinion, but this been a court of law, there is an question about the acquittal (of the Chief Justice)," Flor said.

No SC resolution

Impeachment member Rodolfo Mendoza, a lawyer, said certainty that there was no danger the Supreme Court would stop the Senate from deciding Corona's case today.

"The moment the [impeachment court] resolves the decision, the petition assailing the [unconstitutional court] jurisdiction will become moot and academic, and the resolve it, whether negative or unwritten, will be implemented accordingly," Mendoza said.

Corona brought a petition to the Supreme Court questioning the impeachment and the Senate's jurisdiction at the start of the trial. The Supreme Court ordered the Senate and the House of Representatives to comment on Corona's petition, but had since taken no further action.

"If were a resolution or decision is rendered on [the] petition, [it] will only serve in future guidance of the lawyers and the courts, as well as by the Congress of the Philippines to guide our future impeachment cases," Mendoza said.

He said an intervention from the Supreme Court at this stage was "very unlikely or farfetched," considering that the tribunal is an "ocean and will only resume its regular sessions on June 18."

Henares, by the time the (Supreme Court] resumes its regular session, the impeachment case of Corona is already settled and the verdict executed accordingly," Mendoza said.

"What is disturbing is the pronouncement of one or two senators that they have already made up their minds on how they will decide on the articles of impeachment. (Their] decision is already [made]," he said.

Mendoza said it could be a prejudgment of the case even before the parties have been heard in full," he added.

Only one hour

Deciding Corona's case will only take one hour, and the conviction will be final as far as the Senate is concerned.

After a 41-day trial, former President Enrile and his 22 colleagues will each take 60 minutes, or one hour, to vote the articles of impeachment filed against Corona's wife Cristina Corona front office.

The senators will be called alphabetically to vote, except for Enrile, and, if they wish, may explain their votes but not more than two minutes. Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III told reporters yesterday.

"It will be over in an hour because not everyone will consume the two minutes. For the others, it may be only five seconds. For myself, it may take 20 seconds," he said.

Procedure

In tradition, the Senate president voted last, but he said. A senator could abstain from voting.

"The procedure that we will follow is the same procedure we used when we convicted [former President Joseph] ESTRADA (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), WTO (Trading System Agreement, the 10 lions," Sotto said, referring to the senators' voting.

The senators will vote first on Articles 2 and 3 of the impeachment complaint (Corona's misdeclaration of assets, in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth), then Article 1 (Corona's participation in Supreme Court rulings favoring Philippine Airlines), and Article 7 (Corona's role as Supreme Court ruling allowing former President Arroyo to travel abroad).

"If in Article 2, there is an acquittal, we proceed to Article 1. If there is an acquittal we will proceed to Article 7. But if in Article 2 there is conviction we will no longer proceed to Article 1," Sotto said.

14 votes to convict

In a guilty vote in the Corona trial, 14 members of the Senate, or 14 votes, are required to convict Corona. The penalty for conviction is removal from office and disqualification to hold any office.

Under the rules, in case of conviction, the Senate "shall render a report a copy of the judgment with the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.

"After the voting commences, whenever the result will be, most probably the Senate will avoid any delay in the promulgation of the result of the trial," Sotto said.

In case of a judgment of conviction, how soon would the Chief Justice leave his office?

Sotto said: "We have not reached that part."

Censure!

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, speaking on a point of order at yesterday's proceedings, said punishment in case of conviction would not extend beyond removal from office, citing the Constitution. Sen. Pablo Ofilena, based on Section 7, Article II, of the Constitution.

She, however, did not mention the second part of Section 7, which stated that "the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to prosecution, trial, and punishment, according to law."

Santiago said Section 7 would allow a lower penalty be an impeachment official, although this was not explicitly mentioned in their convictions.

Following that reading, the Senate can impose a lower penalty, to say, censure like censure, reprimand, fines, imprisonment from one to five, Santiago said. WIN reports from Philip C. Salaverria, TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

Robredo clears Chief Justice

From page A1

Corona may have been planned to backfire, but he is not necessarily criminally liable for using a vehicle with a fake license plate when he went to the Senate to take the witness chair last week.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo believes Corona has no liability if he did not know that the black Lexus-model sports utility vehicle, a Chevrolet Suburban, he had been using was illegally carrying car plates from the motorcycle plate number that belonged to another vehicle.

Corona cannot be faulted "unless there is a clear indication that he knows that it is a hot car," Robredo said.

"I think he does not know ... The (car] who should be investigated is the (one] who owned it," Robredo told reporters after the turnover of the Philippine National Police Multipurpose Helicopter in Camp Crame on Monday.

Chief Justice Corona's Suburban with a fake license plate / Photos on site

He said the investigation by the PNP Highway Patrol Group (HPG) would find out if the SUV was being carried by the Chief Justice personally or by the Supreme Court for his use.

Robredo said the investigation by the HPG would find out if the SUV was being carried by the Chief Justice personally or by the Supreme Court for his use.

But Robredo said the investigation will be incomplete if the HPG for the Chief Justice's vehicle from the crime Palo Alto, 702 SUV of his company's vehicle, (vehicle Mitsubishi 2.0] still can.

Robredo said the SUV owner was liable for "artificially" using the vehicle without having it registered. Carriage situation is done every year.

"I think the one who is at fault is the one who registered the vehicle. ... First, it has no license plate and it got another vehicle's license plate," Robredo said.

He said the owners no excuse for not having the vehicle registered.

But Robredo said the car would not be impounded yet in connection with Corona's "medical examination," referring to the Chief Justice's continuing treatment at the Medical City after he suffered at the impeachment trial last Tuesday.

He said the SUV owner may make its case in surrendering to turn over the vehicle to authorities anytime.

"After this impeachment hearing, it will be impounded," Robredo said.

The Senate impeachment trial on Friday prompted a false-based inconvenience to complain to the HPG that the Chief Justice's vehicle bore the crime Palo Alto, 702 SUV of his company's vehicle, (vehicle Mitsubishi 2.0] still can.

Robredo said the SUV owner was liable for "artificially" using the vehicle without having it registered. Carriage situation is done every year.

"I think the one who is at fault is the one who registered the vehicle. ... First, it has no license plate and it got another vehicle's license plate," Robredo said.

He said the owners no excuse for not having the vehicle registered.

But Robredo said the car would not be impounded yet in connection with Corona's "medical examination," referring to the Chief Justice's continuing treatment at the Medical City after he suffered at the impeachment trial last Tuesday.

He said the SUV owner may make its case in surrendering to turn over the vehicle to authorities anytime.

"After this impeachment hearing, it will be impounded," Robredo said.

Church, Palace to accept verdict

From page A1

Villanueva said the full court would resume its sessions on June 18.

'Strong case'

In Malacañang, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte told a news conference that the Aquino administration would accept any decision by the Senate.

"We are as ready as we will be for whatever verdict that is coming out," Valte said.

She said, however, that based on the evidence and testimonies made during the trial, the prosecution had a "strong case" against Corona.

President Aquino, she said, still holds that the case against Corona is strong. "The President has said as much repeatedly in the last few weeks," she said.

'Be objective'

At the Supreme Court, Villanueva urged the senators to be "objective" in making their decisions, and not let political considerations affect how they vote.

"They're all intelligent. They're all upright. I hope they will be objective about the whole thing for the good of the Filipino people," Villanueva said.

Villanueva said that, as a member of the Supreme Court, he was also "affected" by the impeachment trial of Corona, adding that it was as if the Supreme Court itself was also undergoing trial.

But impeachment, he said, is a process guaranteed under the Constitution. "Let's follow it. Let's respect it," Villanueva said.

Waiving confidentiality

Villanueva said he was willing to waive the confidentiality of his bank accounts and had also informed his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberto Abad said he was also willing to waive the confidentiality of his bank accounts, because he had "nothing to hide."

"I'm willing. I didn't really think hard about it because I have nothing to hide," Abad said in a separate interview.

He said it was not a sign of support for Corona but a question of decision.

"We're supposed to be apolitical," Abad said.

When asked about Corona's decision to seek a temporary restraining order, Abad said: "We'll leave it up to God."

At the Supreme Court yesterday, employees joined the every-Tuesday flash mob break for Corona's supporters but reporters were not allowed to get into the room where they were praying.

Several Catholic bishops urged a stop to "fractious bickering" that might influence the senators' decision.

Speaking on Church-run Radio Veritas, Tagbilaran Bishop Leonardo Medroso asked people to pray for guidance for the senators.

Khalid Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez encouraged the people to pray so that "justice, truth, love and freedom" would reign in the Senate room to decide Corona's case.

Negative impact

Manila Archbishop Bishop Rodolfo Pabillo said that the decision, whether convicted or acquitted, would have a negative impact on the government and the country.

If Corona is acquitted, Pabillo said through CBCPNews, that will show how weak President Aquino is because he used the entire machinery of government to remove the Chief Justice from office.

But a decision to convict Corona will show the weakness of the judiciary, and Pabillo, who opposed the impeachment of the Chief Justice.

Pabillo also urged the people, however, to pray that the senators would be fair and not allow themselves to be swayed by personal interest when they vote.

Just resign

Rep. Joseph Victor Ejercito of San Juan, who was in Bacolod City on Saturday, said Corona should just resign to spare himself and his family from humiliation.

Rep. Music Mitigos Magsaysay of Zambales, who was also in Bacolod, said that if the decision would be based on the letter of the case and the evidence, Corona would be acquitted.

But if the senators based their decision on political grounds, Magsaysay said, "that is a different story."

Ordinary people's verdict

In Mindanao, ordinary people expect Corona to be convicted. Noel Lobaton, a grocery owner in Iligan City, said Corona was "guilty."

Evangelio Cobilla Bonoan, a housewife, said the Chief Justice was a "liar."

Kidlatan Bello, a security guard in Zamboanga City, said Corona deserved to be convicted.

Bobby Reynera, an abaca grower in Sorsogon City, also preferred acquittal for Corona so the Chief Justice should resign or retire for the good interest of the Supreme Court.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila; Carla P. Gutierrez, Inquirer Visayas; and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao.

'No need to declare dollars'

From page A1

DR LEO RIVADELIA: Chief Justice relied on sound legal basis for his position and is all innocence, he was guided by good faith and without malice.

ERNESTO SANTOS

ound legal basis for his position—and in all innocence, guided by good faith and without malice," said Dr. Leo Angeles, former dean of De Asisse law school, in the final oral arguments of the defense before the Senate impeachment tribunal sessions a verdict today.

He said that the confidentiality provision in the Foreign Currency Deposit Act (Republic Act No. 6426) was "absolute."

It "specifically" RA 6426, remained in effect despite the requirement for public officials to file a SALN. Dr. los Angeles argued, citing a 2008 Supreme Court ruling (Republic vs Sogies) where disclosure between confidentiality of bank deposits and the right to inquire into their sum involved in favor of the respondent.

Dr los Angeles cited the absence of any Supreme Court ruling that "squarely applies" to the absolute confidentiality provision of RA 6426 in the filing of SALN.

The defense lawyer dismissed the prosecution's position that the Corona's nonexposition of his dollar deposits in his SALN was not "justified," his defense counsel argued that the omission did not "amount to an impeachable breach of trust."

Dr los Angeles said the omission could be corrected under the law and was not on the level of impeachable offenses spelled out in the Constitution such as treason, bribery and graft and corruption.

In contrast, a violation in SALN disclosure is penalized only with a "fine not exceeding P1,000 or imprisonment of not exceeding five years or both."

"For love of logic, there is no violation of law where the law itself provides a corrective measure," Dr los Angeles said. "All the needs to be done is to call the attention of the public official. This is the remedy of first resort, not to punish him, much less remove him from office."

Dr los Angeles, a former Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas, Corona's chief counsel, continued the line taken by Dr los Angeles.

No ground for ouster

"May we ask the prosecution if there is jurisprudence (saying) that a mere deficiency, a mere inaccuracy made by the filer of the SALN is constitutive of a ground for impeachment which may claim ouster? If it is not an impeachable offense, then why are we building up clashes after clashes to the prejudice, not only to the life, honor and reputation of the Chief Justice but (also of) his entire family?"

Cuevas said the damage "may no longer be erased or obliterated because it already sank into the minds of the common people luring the subject of what we call satisfactory even outside of this court."

The defense lawyers disagreed off the prosecution contention that RA 6426, a 1974 law, had been overtaken by the SALN provision in the 1987 Constitution.

Cuevas's lawyers pointed out that the SALN law also stated that this should be enforced "in the manner provided by law," ostensibly referring to RA 6426.

The defense said the remedy was to amend RA 6426 and insisted that such a move would have a prospective, not a retroactive effect.

Blinding

Beyond the legal issues, Dr los Angeles recalled what he described as the "blinding resentment" of the impeachment complaint led by party mates of President Aquino in the House of Representatives last Dec. 13.

"Regrettably, we have witnessed the unusual subject of complaint for impeachment, a complaint for the majority of the House of Representatives who never even read the articles of impeachment," he said, noting that Mr. Aquino "repeatedly declared that he wanted the Chief Justice removed."

Dr los Angeles said the "undue interference" by Malacañang was "clearly intended to weaken and then control the Supreme Court in its many arm effective checks and balances under the tripartite government system."

"Under the pretext that Dr Chief Justice and the Supreme Court are impediments to the reforms sought by him, the President aims to remove the Chief Justice and make the Supreme Court subservient to his whims," he said.

"It is our fervent hope that the Senate will not lend to assistance to this plot. Let not this narration allow the guillotine to fall on judicial independence."

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'Lack of evidence calls for acquittal'

From page A1

Cuevas's one-day testimony last week, wherein he answered each allegation, particularly the dollar deposits and how he had accumulated them. Prosecutors yesterday raised several questions on the testimony, but Cuevas noted that they "categorically and positively" waived their right to cross-examine him.

"Beyond what the prosecution failed to prove, what strengthens the presumption of innocence is the credibility of the Chief Justice in giving justice, in proving himself by the right, courageous and true," Dr los Angeles said.

Common sense truth

"His innocence is buttressed by the common sense truth behind his testimony, which the majority of many Filipinos in their own families. His courage is shown by his disinclination to fight his impeachment and the horrid cesspool of propaganda along with it."

In reviving the words of former US President Bill Clinton's lawyer, he said the defense was fearing aviation judges with "the voice of reason, the voice of law and the voice of truth, the voice that will ring forever in your ears. SHAME."

Dr los Angeles noted that the Chief Justice had submitted to the impeachment court a waiver on all his assets—not just on the bank accounts—in a move he said "is the standard of transparency in public service."

"He has responded to the call of the Filipino people by defying all representations and making the bar for all public officials," he said.

Cuevas and fellow defense lawyer Dennis Manalo later took turns in assailing the 17-page report of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), which was presented by Commissioner Candelaria Zarpin Morales last week.

MANALO: Report of AMLC is hearsay

ERNESTO SANTOS

Morales testimony hearsay

Cuevas described the AMLC report as "totally useless, totally irrelevant." Describing the Commissioner's testimony as "hearsay," Manalo said the AMLC officer who prepared the report was never presented in the Senate because "there was no court order allowing that inspection."

Both Cuevas and Manalo said Morales sought the report from the AMLC on her own, without the existence of a "predicate crime" as required by law.

Assisted by the Commission on Audit, Morales interpreted the AMLC report to mean that Corona had a total of 82 bank accounts and $10 to $12 million in deposits.

In his testimony Cuevas flatly denied the allegation and admitted to owning $2.4 million in four accounts. Still, Manalo said the prosecution "punished" the Chief Justice on the allegations, based solely on Morales' testimony.

But the defense lawyers also reiterated a long-standing complaint that the Chief Justice was not accorded "due process" when 188 House members—allegedly supporters of the President—signed the impeachment complaint, many of whom later admitted they had not examined it.

"They act committed in violation of this due process must be declared null and void," Cuevas said.

Awesome powers

Dr los Angeles added: "The President then repeatedly declared that the majority of the Chief Justice removed. In support, the executive branch then lent its full and awesome powers to interfere in the impeachment proceedings to oust the Chief Justice and to intimidate the Supreme Court."

"The endorses of their actions imply a conclusion," he said, pointing out instances when Justice Secretary Leila De Lima "denounced other Supreme Court justices with impeachment" even as investigations into Corona's alleged 45 properties and 82 bank accounts were released.

Cuevas's counsels argued that the prosecution failed to show "any damning evidence" against the Chief Justice. Of the eight pieces of evidence such as the 17-page AMLC report presented by Morales.

Manalo cited bad over the allegation of the chief House prosecutor, Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., that Corona had "peddled" his position for material gains.

"That is a lie. That is an absolute lie," he said, pointing out that the Supreme Court acts as a "collegial body."

The prosecution claimed that Corona favored former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when the high tribunal issued a temporary restraining order last year. The order allowed her to seek medical treatment abroad considering that no case was yet to be filed against her at that time.

Dissenting opinion

Manalo said the prosecution could not rely on the dissenting opinion on the matter by Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno. Persidente argues, it is the opposition to the high tribunal.

"A dissenting opinion is not binding as it is a mere expression of the individual view of the court who disagrees with the decision of the majority of the members thereof," he said.

In his oral arguments, the prosecution recalled the case of a Supreme Court employee who was indicted for failing to include her "joint account" with her husband in her SALN. Cuevas said there was "no parity of facts" between the case and the impeachment trial of Corona.

"That is merely an administrative case, this is an impeachment case involving the presidence of the Constitution and grounded on definite and specific grounds," he said.

The defense said the prosecution failed to prove its much-publicized allegation that Corona received 45 properties, as per the list released by the Land Registration Authority.

"We were able to show, and we believe to the satisfaction of this honorable court, that there were no 45 pieces of properties, and that consequently there were only five," Cuevas said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Restart

ALMOST two years after the Philippines got a fresh "restart" with the election of President Aquino, the Chief Executive has himself pressed the restart button for the economy with the appointment of a new head of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

As the new economic planning secretary, Arsenio Balisacan takes over from the intelligent and affable (but apparently too cautious) Cayetano Paderanga Jr., who oversaw the early implementation of the Aquino administration's conservative economic policy, the Public-Private Partnership program.

EDITORIAL

The PPP program during these past two years is hardly anything to be proud of, having wasted crucial time that could have been used to help pull more people out of poverty and push the Philippines higher up the ladder of economic development. But while some quarters would conveniently lay the blame for PPP's mis-start at the doorstep of Neda, the responsibility goes far beyond the agency. And higher up.

Going forward, however, the Neda under Balisacan has a unique opportunity to play a role in restarting the stalled PPP program and ensuring that the Aquino administration would leave a more well-rounded legacy after 2016, as opposed to the lopsided one it has been molding so far.

Balisacan's specialty in the field of economics is the area of poverty alleviation, and his early pronouncements on the issue jibe perfectly with those of the administration to create and nurture growth that will benefit the majority of Filipinos. (At his first press conference as Neda chief, Balisacan said: "I share the view of our President that we need to permanently break away from this pattern of growth [i.e., weak capacity to reinvigorate growth into poverty reduction], making development more inclusive, ensuring that it benefits everyone, especially the poor and the highly vulnerable groups in our society.")

Yet this inclusive growth model, which implies growing the economy from the ground up (as opposed to the more conventional trickle-down effect) will take more time and effort—and certainly has less examples of success.

The challenge for Neda and this administration will be to pursue inclusive growth without neglecting the elite benefits that private-sector-led economic development can rightly bring. To be sure, Neda, by its very nature, is an agency of economists, analysts and statisticians who have no direct control over the so-called "policy levers" that control the economy. It is not like the central bank or fiscal authorities that can accelerate or slow down the economy by releasing or pulling money from the financial system. The Neda being a planning agency, instead of an implementing one, its powers are somewhat limited. But it is also one of the most crucial agencies because the Neda chief is the vice chair of the Cabinet-level Investment Coordination Committee, where all projects worth over P50 million are reviewed and approved (or rejected). It is here that Balisacan can make a difference. He can help move the approvals process for job-creating infrastructure projects much faster than its small piece of the last two years.

Like the conductor of an orchestra, the Neda chief plays no instrument but sets the mood and tempo for the entire group or position not only something but also dynamic music—encouraging the lush violins, coaxing out the sound of a flute, or signaling a sharp clash of cymbals.

The worst thing that the administration can do in the next few years is to maintain precisely what it has been doing these last two years: cramping the initiatives of public lawyers, private-sector investors by sitting on project proposals that would have generated employments, put food on the table and moved the country to leapfrog boards.

To make things work, the administration must do two things: facilitate the faster implementation of PPP projects, or step aside and let profit-oriented businessmen take the lead (remembering that the profit motive is one of the most potent forms of spurring economic development, however ugly it may be).

Enough time has been wasted, and more time will pass before any of these big-ticket projects manage to break ground. With the unpredictable whiff of Chief Justice Renato Corona wending down, the Aquino administration must channel the political will it has exhibited in the political arena toward jump-starting the economy.

Either that, or use the same political will to make the decision to get out of the way of the free market.

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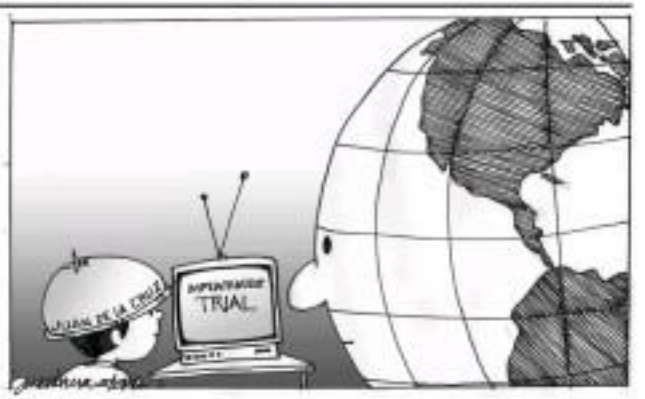

Twin tracks

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IVEN BEFORE the impeachment court ruled on Chief Justice Renato Corona's case, questions flooded in. They ranged from courtroom mood to policy issues.

"The role Chief Justice William Rehnquist took at [*sic*] President Clinton's impeachment is depicted in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History," e-mailed Leonor Lagera of Iloilo. "When will former President Joseph Estrada's turn [*sic*] in the hot seat?"

Barring glitches, the impeachment court will vote its decision on June 44 of the 43rd. The 102 senator-judges will have 21 days to mind-tap. The impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada was shorted after the "Convoy 121" ended the second marriage on Jan. 16, 2001. After prosecutors walked out, People Power II erupted.

Completing the Corona trial is an iconic plotdrawn. Who says we Filipinos don't take lessons of history to heart?

Sen. poll and dance of power span back three years. Congress impeached by the third CJ in post-Marcos history. Corona's term ends when Aquino 3rd turns 65 on February 2015.

Corona had called Aquino's father, former President Corazon Aquino's friend, to explain why he voted not to open the envelope that allegedly contained evidence that Mrs. Aquino had secret bank accounts. Aquino 3rd, then senator, had called Corona's wife Cristina Gutierrez, a Supreme Court justice, to explain why he voted to open the envelope.

Corona had said Day 42 to demolish the AMLC data and Monday testimony. He did not do so. Instead, he followed the last window of opportunity to murder Mendoza's already battered credibility. Mendoza, who had testified for the prosecution, was then cross-examined by Corona's defense team.

Mendoza had testified that he was "pressured" by Aquino 3rd to testify against Corona. Mendoza denied that he was promised a plum appointment to the Court of Appeals. Corona's defense team then produced a letter dated Jan. 16, 2012 from Mendoza asking for appointment to the Court of Appeals.

Mendoza's credibility was shredded

Are budgets really lacking?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

WHEN a spate of break-ins and robberies occurred in our neighborhood a few years ago, our neighborhood association asked our barangay official for increased night patrols by our barangay tanods. They reportedly told our neighborhood leaders off, saying they had no budget for increased patrols. If we wanted more patrols, they said then, we residents would have to raise money to fund the snacks and other expenses of the tanods. Not too long after that, I learned that during the barangay general assembly meeting, the same officials had proudly reported substantial savings in the barangay's annual budget. For the life of me, I still don't understand how it claimed to have no budget for more patrols?

The story is far from unique to our barangay. How many times have we heard barangay officials lament that there just isn't enough budget to do this or do that, to expand to various programs, etc. So they basic social services or vital local infrastructure? And this is not unique to local government either. The same top-out tends to be the excuse when national government agencies or various levels are called upon to do more to respond to urgent needs of the populace. Typically, the "lack of budget" excuse has become the mantra of many an agency caught wanting on delivering its mandated services to the Filipino public.

While bashing the National Economic and Development Authority in the 1990s, I remember receiving a draft report stating that each government department would typically have spent only around 70-75 percent of their annual budget as of end-November. They would then go on a final rush to spend the remainder in the final month of the fiscal year as quickly as they could, lest they be unable to disburse it all and would instead undermine their ability to ask for higher budgets from the Department of Budget and Management later on. December is thus marked by a frenzy of budget realignments.

And guess what the most common expenses realigned funds are realigned to? Bias. What items are easiest to disburse very quickly? The annual rice allowance, or loaf-of-bread allowance, or whatever term is used to refer to the monetized value of employee allowances and bonuses—productivity bonuses, anniversary bonuses, performance incentive allowances, holiday pay, and other common allowances or bonuses that the agencies can come up with—to be able to spend the money thus. I heard here that some agencies would deliberately close down spending on prior budgeted items to be able to make way for such savings that could be easily realigned for employees benefits in December. How this still happens now? Ironically, I don't know. I've been out of government for well over a decade now (with no particular desire to return, I hasten to add). But it certainly isn't far-fetched to think it still does.

Local government units, on the other hand, do not have the same impetus to go on a mad spending rush at the last month of the year. For one thing, savings posted in the previous year have no effect on the level of their following year's internal revenue allotment, which is then allocated share of the 40 percent of internal revenues mandated by law to be given to LGUs. This is set by fixed allocation and distribution formulas. Not can LGUs readily realign budget savings for more personnel benefits, as the Local Government Code puts a cap on how much they could spend on staff compensation. This is meant to curtail the tendency of some local officials to use the LGU into an employment agency for relatives and favored constituents (not that it has stopped them from doing so). One might expect, then, that LGUs shouldn't be incurring significant surpluses at the end of the year. After all, they commonly have local officials constantly complains of insufficient budgets for needed services, as I said above. So if the national government has perennially been in deficit, we could expect local governments to be even more cash-strapped, right?

Well, not quite. Data from the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) show that like my own barangay, the bulk of LGUs in this country perennially register surpluses. In 2010, provinces posted a collective surplus of P15.16 billion, while cities earned P23.3 billion and municipalities P16 billion, for a total of P54.5 billion! The BLGF website does not have the corresponding data for barangays, but you can bet there are more surpluses coming from there as well.[1] I first discovered this fact—which is a persistent trend through the years—when a research team I led did a provincial report card on the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs (on poverty reduction) for the United Nations Children's Fund several years ago. The study sought explanations why certain LGUs were more successful than others in making progress on the MDGs.

We found that the LGUs that allocated more budgets to human welfare and social development (e.g., health, education, population management, employment, housing, community development and other social services) made more rapid progress in meeting the MDGs for the social parameters, who did not put enough money on the shelter, turned out to have unfavorable outcomes in the end—because they lacked the money there, it seems they just didn't know enough to put their money on the right things. I haven't even begun to talk of issues of the budget. And it seems to me that too many local executives have the misplaced notion that getting projects is a mark of good governance.

If Budget Secretary Butch Abad has been truthful to his blog (no cringe with the government budget), *I could see where he is coming from.* He is, after all, not just secretary of the budget. He is also secretary of management.

* * *

E-mail: cielito.habito@gmail.com

Who will win Egypt?

WORLD VIEW

Omar Ashour

CAIRO—EVERYTHING about Egypt's revolution has been unexpected, and the first round results in the country's first-ever competitive presidential election are no different. The size of former President Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq, who will enter the presidential runoff alongside the Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohamed Morsi, has raised eyebrows across the political spectrum. So did the meteoric rise of the Nasserist candidate Hamdin Sabbahi to third place, and the fourth-place finish of Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, who was backed by Morsi and Sabbahi's main rivals in parliament.

Egypt's voters overwhelmingly chose the revolution over the old regime, and shattered the myth that the path for change is an urban, middle-class, Cairo-based phenomenon: the eight revolutionary candidates received more than 16.4 million votes. Of the second-round candidates, Morsi garnered 5.7 million votes (assuming no election rigging).

Shafiq's success shocked many revolutionaries: "He is a bastard, the place is not full, not on top of Egypt after the revolution," said one activist. In brief, Shafiq has been linked to multiple cases of corruption and repression, including the "battle of the camels" on Feb. 2, 2011, when Mubarak's henchmen attacked Tahrir Square, killing and wounding protesters.

The size of Shafiq is explainable in some areas, but raised questions in others. In upper Egypt, "more than 80 percent of Copts voted for Shafiq," a senior cleric in the Coptic Orthodox Church said, and in Copts-majority areas, the pro-Shafiq vote exceeded 95 percent, because he was widely perceived as a bulwark against Islamists.

Moreover, the same employees received 5.1 million of those eligible to vote) and their families supported Shafiq, using either as direct instruments from their bosses, or to the perceived threat of sweeping MB influence on government bureaucracies. And Shafiq received a significant push in part from Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP), as well as feuds between and security interests that benefited from the status quo.

But this was not enough to explain Morsi's defeat in the MB's traditional strongholds. So their

Omar Ashour is director of the Middle East Studies Arabic Program, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (UK), and a visiting fellow, Brookings Doha Center. He is the author of "The De-Radicalization of Islamists: Transforming Armed Islamist Movements."

Hands off—'big tobacco' told

COMMENTARY

Dr. Shin Young-soo

Denounce tobacco industry interference with public health laws whenever and wherever you see it

HANDS OFF!

That's what we shout when the tobacco industry tries to undermine the laws that protect people from the ravages of tobacco use.

That's what we cry when the industry misuses the trade agreements to prevent trade and investment in an effort to block the novel law requiring that tobacco be sold in plain, unattractive packages.

That's what we tell an industry that tries to crush the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the landmark public health treaty that now has 174 parties covering more than 80 percent of the world's population.

That's what we say to a tobacco industry whose so-called "corporate social responsibility" projects are designed to buy influence and make people forget that its products cause addiction, suffering and nearly 6 million deaths per year.

Hands off!

The tobacco industry needs to keep its hands off all the protections that have been erected from science-based smoking to lung cancer, emphysema, cardiovascular disease and a host of other fatal diseases.

The industry is getting more aggressive and brazen. Tobacco giant Philip Morris recently took the unusual step of suing Australia under the country's bilateral investment treaty with Hong Kong on the grounds that Australia's revolutionary plain packaging law infringes on international trademarks.

That's why the World Health Organization (hate "tobacco industry interference" as the theme of the next World No Tobacco Day (May 31).

The World No Tobacco Day and Reemphasis Week mark the World Health Organization will educate policymakers and the general public about the tobacco industry's nefarious and harmful tactics so that they might be better resisted.

Doing so is in keeping with the WHO Framework Convention, the preamble of which recognizes "the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts."

We encourage everyone to join the good fight.

On World No Tobacco Day and every day, tell the tobacco industry to keep its hands off public health legislation. The industry deserves no seat at the policymaking table. Its interests being fundamentally and irreconcilably in conflict with the public interest.

Tell the industry to keep its hands off the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which obligates parties to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, to protect people from tobacco smoke, to warn people about the harms of tobacco use and to offer help to people who want to quit. The treaty is our most important tool in the fight to control the tobacco epidemic.

Stand by countries such as Australia that have stood up to the industry's legal intimidation. Every country has a right and a responsibility to protect its people from the enormous health and economic costs of tobacco use. Trade laws should not be allowed to prolong or increase exposure to tobacco-related suffering.

Denounce tobacco industry interference with public health laws whenever and wherever you see it.

The World Health Organization in the Western Pacific declares its solidarity with its member states and their people against tobacco industry intimidation.

Our message to the tobacco industry is simple and direct.

Hands off!

Dr. Shin Young-soo is World Health Organization regional director for the Western Pacific.

Postcard from Diliman

THE FAMILIAR shades of green and gray welcomed me as the jeep took a right on the dead Oval that I have always called my own. The run could hello in between the leaves' shadows that hit my legs, and it was as comforting as always. Despite the frantic rush that this campus thrives in every day, there is always a quiet reassurance that greets me once I catch a glimpse of its lush trees and its people. This was how it felt like before I went away.

A soon-to-be freshman, and this is the way it has been since, myself looking on with much color in my movement as the university embraces me.

It is ironic that it should be this way, given that the last four years have done nothing but maddening. My spirits have been defeated, crushed, and trampled in every imaginable way—from having a paper thrown at my face to leaving friends in a sea of hostility. It was nothing like the experience I'd had in my head all those years in my life before my name appeared on the list that would lead me to UP. In fact, I grew up seeing UP only through the eyes of others—those who had studied the same halls, held the same fears, sought the same dream. It seemed perfect and ideal. But it was not for real. Only much later would I realize that the allure came not from its fruitfulness but from its sharp edges.

I take the jeep and I walk at those trees and buildings, and things are different. UP is no sapiens, no dreamland. It has no place for sentiment, no time for apathy. Once you step into its halls, the solid ground you are standing on is pulled out from under you and you have a part of yourself you've always thought secure. But UP asks you to rediscover—it agitates you so you can strengthen your resolve, it provokes you so you can reconcile. It has certainly made me question my own beliefs, my own thoughts, my own ideals. But it led me to answers I wouldn't have found anywhere else.

Within its space, stories have been told, friends made, interests shared and questions raised. I began as a younger overachiever, but my dreams languished. I lost my voice. I was like a flame swallowed by the complexities. Amidst the hubbub of every day, I have learned to see the colors hiding beneath the blacks and whites; to hear the silences beyond the noise...the small but powerful silences, the almost unnoticeable and quiet gestures that are often ignore but as evidently proved together the biggest movements that make up the days of our lives. This silence is the means we use to engage a sex, a no, a refusal, an acceptance. It can spell the difference between giving up and pushing yourself. It can be a powerful weapon or an unforgivable mistake. It can keep you together or pull you apart.

I walk the jeep and I look at those trees and buildings, and they are looking back at me. It has been four years. Four years is not always a long time, but in this case, four years is enough for me to discard the rose-colored glasses and put on better, clearer ones. I have been changed, just as the buildings no longer stand for just bricks and concrete but woods and thoughts and dreams and laws. UP is not the same, just as I no longer am the same. Thankfully. And so, I decide that I will take a dare out of UP and put it in my pocket, carrying all classes and talks with me wherever I go, ready to combat myself and the end of college three-fours. Then I look at myself, the shadows of leaves on my legs and the sun hitting my hands and my face, and I realize that even when I go, I will never really leave; even in my goodbye, I will always say hello.

Karla Bernardo, 20, is a new creative writing graduate of the University of the Philippines and an incoming first-year student at the UP College of Law.

Beyond excitement

Domingo Tappa Lacambra

I ERROLL be honest. I wanted to be an extra in the former, not to apply what I have learned from all my law subjects, but to observe first-hand the historic impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona. I wanted to know how it felt like sitting inside a "tanod" room with the senators as they throw questions at the prosecution and defense. Well, of course, I was not able to grab an opportunity, so I traveled to Manila from my province in the North.

On the first day of my work, my mind dwelled on the adventure of being in the house with 10 other students from, well-known universities, equally qualified and equally competitive. All of them said they were there for the internship but I knew that "side-talk" was nothing like impeachment trial. But the trial was then on a break, to resume in May. Still, there was no change in the level of excitement.

Before I went to sleep, I settled the manner for spoken on the proceedings, and for the same thing upon waking up. That was my routine for a week, and I became more bored subjects of the best of the trial. I discovered and vented with other people in some social networks, but of course I could not say who I favored between the prosecution and the defense.

My second week at an intern changed my view, and I simply have to say that I was no longer merely excited about the impeachment trial and watching the senators in their red robes in the session hall. I was interested in the conduct of the proceedings...the perspectives of the senators, the sign of the public, the points of view of the Senate employees.

I realized that the impeachment trial was not just a thing go dog story, or a game show that would key me up to say big things. More so, it was not a primetime movie that I should watch and be amazed with its twists and turns. It was something would, in no way, equate with the dashed hopes of some Filipinos who, from the very start of the trial, sacrificed something to get for what they believed is right.

I discovered that the trial was not just about the prosecutors presenting pieces of evidence, or the defense denying the charges. It was never solely about the justices trying to get an exclusive to fulfill their mandate in a house of trials. I realized that it was not about finding the "immediate reasons" in the Senate impeachment court but in giving respect to one another and to justice system.

I found that the impeachment trial was about us, and about getting our voices heard in this time of need.

Let us not forget the true essence of being a member of the community. Let us make sure that the proceedings would benefit not only a few and would bring about a better place for Filipinos.

Domingo Tappa Lacambra, 19, is a legal management student at Cagayan State University at Tuguegarao City.

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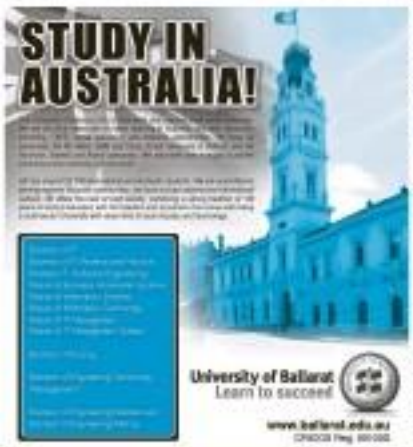

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Credible explanation

LAM not pro-Corona, I just want to be fair. It seems to me that from the start, there was no genuine verification of the articles of impeachment. How could she surrender 180 House members from, and only understood the charges when they had already voted on impeachment while she eavesdropping documents was still being printed?

On the unreported bank accounts, I think Chief Justice Renato Corona gave a credible explanation. The unreported big dollar of turnover has no significant impact on earnings, especially if under-reported were 40-50 years, as in his case. Any finance student worth his salt will tell you this. And the Chief Justice was willing to have the bonkers uncovered called in to explain. It was the impeachers' team that did not want to do so, because of the so-called timeline. Who is the deadline to impeachment trial anyways cannot be governed to show whether or not the Chief Justice was telling the truth, in order to be said he judged? Substitute should prevail over fiction.

On the omission of the dollar and some peso accounts in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), the Chief Justice has a point. If he really wanted to hide them issues, why would he put them in his own name? That is a point hard to put down. Also, there is no ostrich-like hiding down on this, as whether these accounts should be included in the SALN. If he chose to interpret it one way, then, whether or not his interpretation is correct should be settled by the Supreme Court, not the impeachment team, since it is the former that has the duty to interpret laws in our country, therefore it behooves Congress to amend the law to make it crystal clear to avoid conflicting interpretations.

But I agree with Sen. Franklin Drilon, Corona should have followed standard accounting practice and put aside his peso account in local, less all liabilities, answer to the net worth. That is why the department is called "Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth," in the first place. And I am sure the Chief Justice's legal counsel can maintain to it his SALN, so he wasn't have been ashamed or embarrassed.

Methinks that first Corona challenge for the 188 lawmakers to waive the confidentiality of their dollar accounts should be accepted. But not only by them, but by all elected officials as well. This will be a great step toward transparency in our country. And if P-Noy is really for the country more than he is against Corona, he should support the Chief Justice on this, and certify a bill to this effect as urgent. In one bill swoop, the bill, if signed by P-Noy into law, will greatly reduce the opportunities of corruption in our country.

Lastly, it is not morally for the President to make comments in favor and against Corona while the trial is in progress. Not only is he violating the "sub judice" rule, he sets an example for all others to follow. By chastising the Chief Justice in public while the charges are yet pending, P-Noy demeans the presidency and his person. Pilar Jaspe, Parañaque

—FERDINAND T. LIM (ftlim01@yahoo.com)

LETTERS

Senate, surrogate people's court

SENATOR VOTES needed to convict Chief Justice Renato Corona?

Well, all the doubts swirling around, he hired, and his being held in such low public esteem, one would hope Chief Justice Corona would voice out pending 14 votes, or preferably a unanimous vote, to acquitted.

This is not a criminal trial which needs proof beyond reasonable doubt to convict. And the Senate impeachment court clearly understands that it's a surrogate people's court.

—TERENCE GEE
(terencegee123@hotmail.com)

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Belmonte: Corona deserves nothing but conviction

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER Justice Renato Corona, the judiciary's highest official who "bends justice to fsuit his interest," deserves nothing but conviction, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said yesterday.

At the conclusion of the trial, Belmonte ended the prosecution's closing arguments with a plea to the 23 senators to look at Corona's character and find the guilty.

"Your honors, I ask that you see through the character of Renato Corona and reflect whether this is the man that we want as our Chief Justice, the head of the entire judicial system, for the next six years," Belmonte said in a 16-minute speech.

"And I ask that you vote according to conscience, and evidence, and find Chief Justice Renato Corona guilty."

Belmonte said Corona himself admitted to amassing P2.4 million and P80 million, but did not report those huge amounts in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs).

And for this omission, the Chief Justice offered only "glib excuses," such as the prohibition of the dollar accounts, and the fact that peso accounts were commingled funds, he said.

"Your honors, this impeachment Chief Justice effectively wants to be exempted from the SALN law," Belmonte said. "He has not been declaring his true networth through the many years that he has been in public service. And yet he himself convinced in Supreme Court decisions wherein lowly public servants were dismissed from public office because they did not declare their true networth."

Obviously, Corona wanted the court and the public "to ignore his millions of dollars and the peso misdeclared in his SALN," he said. "My question is, why? Is he prohibited from declaring them in his SALN? Shouldn't he be the one in set a good example?" he said.

"Isn't it disturbing your honors that the judiciary's highest official, the last bastion of justice for ordinary Filipinos, appears to have over the land a himself the very culprit who is breaking justice, so to speak, to hide his crime? Our people will not allow that, your honors," he said.

The Speaker, one of the 188 lawmakers who signed the impeachment complaint, said the prosecution had proven Corona's partiality when, based on a letter, "engineered" a rolling ad-vente to the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines.

The panel also proved that he was "willing to rip the scales of justice with his own hands when it comes" to former Presidents and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he added.

"When Mr. Corona handed down a TRO effectively allowing GMA, through a flight attendant, to leave the country, the nation entered a collective cry of outrage because the very spirit of public accountability was coming under attack... by no less than the Chief Justice, the highest embodiment of justice in the land," Belmonte said.

"It was to make as the end was the "principle that those who do wrong will be held accountable" by the institutions set up by the people, Belmonte said. After all, the trial was conducted on "search of the truth."

In a news conference called after the proceedings, the chief House prosecutor, Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. of Iloilo, said the prosecution decided to give Belmonte a role in the closing arguments to show the unity of the House behind the impeachment complaint against Corona. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

BELMONTE

Corona hid '98 percent of cash assets'

From page A1

Juan Ponce Enrile that he stored in keeping in dollars "in the late 1960s" when the peso-dollar exchange rate was purportedly P2.11.

Enrile said he'll even mark a checkbuster question, asking Corona whether he started investing in dollars in the early or late 1960s.

Enrile said the P2.11 was prevailed from 1948 to 1958.

"The former President knew the exchange rate then. He was undersecretary of finance from 1960 to 1968," Enrile said.

Corona graduated from Ateneo High School in 1956, from college in 1959 and from the Ateneo law school in 1974, the prosecutor said. The 1960 exchange rate when Corona was 13 to college was already P3.90/$1, according to Enrile.

'Visionary'

The lawmaker said the Chief Justice "seems more believe that when he was in Grade 4 in 1960, he was such a visionary that he already started buying dollars."

"It's clear that it's political and lying to the Senate," he added.

Enrile said Corona's other misstatements included:

• That the impeachment complaint against Corona was the House of Representatives' effort to support President Aquino's attempt to get back at the Chief Justice for the Supreme Court decision to award the Hacienda Luisita to farm workers;

• That the Foreign Currency Deposit Act (FCDA) shielded him from declaring his dollar accounts;

• That the Chief Justice commingled his cash with that of his children.

Start of FCDA

Enrile said Corona could not hide under the diary of the FCDA, or Republic Act No. 6426, since only banks, not depositors, were bound by its confidentiality provision.

Besides, RA 6715, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, also provides for the disclosure of assets

TUPAS: Corona had serious character issue in his desperation to explain his incredible wealth.

MANNY MORALES

"such as investments, cash on hand or in banks, stocks, bonds and the like," the prosecutor said.

"Even cash kept in a final situation or bank should be disclosed in the SALN. Even if a billion witness insists that there was no other official who declared his dollars in his SALN, the answer can be corrected into peace. You don't have to say it's in dollars. The Chief Justice is making excuses using RA 6426," Enrile said.

He referenced earlier warnings from critics of Corona that the latter's use of the FCDA to hide his dollar deposits could provide an idea to the rest of public officials who want to hide their deposits.

"What violations of RA 6426 did the Chief Justice rightfully declare his cash? He owned up to the $2.4 million on hindsight because he was caught. Even if he bought dollars at P2.11, he could not have accumulated that amount," he added.

Enrile wondered why Corona took out a car loan of P800,000 when he was able to provide an idea to the rest of public officials who want to hide their deposits.

"What violations of RA 6426 did the Chief Justice rightfully declare his cash? He owned up to the $2.4 million on hindsight because he was caught. Even if he bought dollars at P2.11, he could not have accumulated that amount," he added.

Enrile wondered why Corona took out a car loan of P800,000 when he was able to provide a huge amount "Why borrow when he claims he has millions?"

The prosecutor then zeroed in on Corona's peso deposits.

Enrile said Corona claimed that he was not obligated to disclose in his SALN the P80 million in commingled funds because these were not solely his. "Why were the deposits in his name? These could be deposited in joint accounts," the lawmaker said.

He also wondered whether Corona was converting his pesos into dollars. How come the savings sent by his US-based daughter Corina to the Philippines was part of the economic good peso account? "Should her savings not be in dollars?" Enrile asked.

"It's confusing... The dollar in daughter in America sends me converted into pesos? If he has P80 million, why not exchange it into dollars?" Enrile asked.

"It's really difficult to make excuses. He tried to contradict ourselves when we do not tell the truth," he added.

Dividing wealth

Enrile noted that Corona put on record that he had two heart bypasses. This, he said, should mean the Chief Justice should be more aware of his mortality and start considering dividing his assets among his children.

Instead, Corona is the one who receives funds from his children, purportedly to add these to the commingled funds. "That's because it's not really commingled. It's just an excuse," he said.

Enrile also took note of Corona's declaration that he and wife Cristina would rather invest their savings in dollars because they never met in the habit of buying real estate.

"He said, 'we as a couple do not buy real estate.' But who did they sell a property to from daughter? Cielo has lots of property. Is Maria Corina's solid in her for P1.9 million," Enrile said. "Clearly it was a patient."

Enrile also noted that the Chief Justice's P1.1 million loan from BDO runs a maturity contributing but huge peso and dollar deposits.

"If the Chief Justice has that kind of money, his family and his wife's relatives should not be fighting over SALN," the prosecutor said.

Corona is still embroiled in several court cases with her cousins in connection with 1643 assets. Her conflict with some Ilana cousins was high-lighted at the height of the impeachment trial.

Enrile also asked the Senate impeachment court not to waste House efforts in proving those Corona for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

The law requires a vote of two-thirds of the Senate members, or 16 votes, to declare Corona guilty of an impeachable offense before he can be booted out of office.

"Let's not pass up the chance to [convict] Chief Justice Corona. The House has the sole power to file an impeachment case. We did that and we proved the sin of 8th Corona," Enrile said.

"If no ordinary Supreme Court interpreter can be removed from office, especially a member still and we don't remove Renato Corona, our nation will be destroyed," he warned.

Enrile said Corona should be removed so Chief Justice of the Philippines. "It would be the greatest disservice to allow him to stay any minute longer," he concluded.

Lead prosecutor

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., House lead prosecutor, said no amount of "denial, no lame excuse whatsoever" could negate the fact that Corona's SALNs did not "truthfully and accurately" reflect his true material worth.

And even when he included his high-end properties to his SALN in 2011, the report did not reflect the acquisition value of these.

"The Chief Justice declared only their fair market value for taxation purposes, which does not serve the purpose of, and has nothing to do with, the computation of net worth in the SALN," Tupas said in his opening remarks.

Fantastic tale

The lead prosecutor added that Corona had "woven a fantastic tale in his desperation to explain his incredible wealth."

Tupas said it was Corona himself who pointed a dissident, Republic v. Sandiganbayan and Ferdinand E. Marcos, stating that when a official's assets are grossly disproportionate to his source of income, then the ex-cess is presumed to be unlawful.

Tupas blasted Corona for insisting that the P22M granted absolute confidentiality to his deposits.

"This incorporation of the law is very disturbing. We beg to disagree with the Chief Justice and find the principles of public accountability . . . . The SALN requirement . . . addressed to government officials . . . to enable them to declare all their assets . . . and makes no distinction between the form of currency such assets, in the spirit of transparency and good governance," he said.

Tupas also accused Corona of "peddling his position of power in exchange for material gain. It has led to the belief that his loyalty does not lie with the Filipino people."

"On the whole, it has led us to the truth that he is in public service not to serve his country but to serve his own ends," he added.

Impeach bid cost House ₱5.8M

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PROSECUTION of Chief Justice Renato Corona in the Senate impeachment court for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution has cost the House of Representatives P5.8 million in litigation and other incidental expenses.

Rep. Neptali Bengzon, chairman of the House committee on accounts, said that of the amount, P4,432,739 had been liquidated while P1.36 million still had to be accounted for.

The expenses were about P800,000 more than the P5 million earlier approved by Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. Belmonte based the approved budget on the 2000 expenses incurred by the House during the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

Noel said the Speaker had also allotted a P5-million budget for the prosecution of then impeached Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez who later opted to resign.

The 2000 budget approved and that half of the expenses during Corona's trial was spent on food for members of the prosecution, their private counsels and staff, the House impeachment secretariat, media people and guests.

The rest of the expenses are for supplies, reimbursements for gas, and rental of equipment.

Noel said the budget for the Corona trial was justified since the hearings ran for five months while the Estrada trial only lasted for about a month.

Noel said a final disbursement report would be released to the media after it shall have been submitted to the Speaker.

Noel expressed the hope that the amount and the time spent by the House prosecutors' Corona would yield a good result, believing to the Chief Justice's conviction.

"I hope it's worth it," he said.

Enrile grills Cuevas: What does 'culpa' mean?

From page A1

was "not very sure ... insofar as damage is concerned."

Upon a clarification by Enrile, Cuevas said: "The probability of kidnapping, extortion and so on may come into the picture because, especially with the present trend of criminality in the country today, there is no assurance that one is immune from such these offenses. That may be one."

Enrile then asked whether this scenario had been contemplated by the framers of Republic Act No. 6426, (Foreign Currency Deposit Act of the Philippines), as well as the presidential decrees preceding it.

"The declaration of policy is entirely different from the financial encouragement or assurance of circumstances that may come thereafter," Cuevas insisted.

Enrile then asked, "Will a public officer or a public employee who makes mine a foreign currency deposit incur the penalty of RA 6426 if he would reflect that deposit in his SALN?"

Cuevas said, "I don't see that probability, but it could answer in a (forced) context, as distinguished from a voluntary pronouncement on the part of the depositor."

No secrecy law

Enrile explained: "We are beginning that the law allows the exposure of a foreign currency deposit by expressed provision of RA 6426 if the depositor himself would give (the consent). There is no secrecy anymore law in this country that prohibits or inhibits or proscribes the depositor from revealing his own deposits. What is prohibited is for a third party to reveal it, and that's why they are penalized, but the depositor is not."

Enrile also pointed Cuevas to Section 27, Article II of the Constitution, which says "A public officer or employee shall uphold the integrity of the, and an ethic (hereafter as may be provided by law, adverse activities under oath of his assets, liabilities and net worth."

"Do you consider that sentence as mandatory that requires to be obeyed by a public officer or public employee?" asked Enrile. "Do you consider that a command of the people, or is it something that can be disregarded?"

Cuevas said the Constitution cannot be disregarded by public officials.

But, he added: "When there are gripes that arise from a different law, I don't see any reason as to why it cannot be availed of, in this particular instance, the depositor. Why the law has granted that is beyond my comprehension. It's a legislative function.... You are privileged neither can define or forbid to the reason behind it."

Enrile then asked Cuevas about the difference in the Bank Law doctrine of "culpa" and "dolus" from where the constitutional intent of "culpa" has been derived.

According to Cuevas, "dolus is intentional," while "culpa is negligence." Enrile disagreed, saying that "culpa is deserving of blame."

When Cuevas claimed that "legislative" was needed to ascertain whether disobedience in the provision of Section 17 of the Constitution deserved blame, Enrile pointed out that the provision did not call for any intent.

"Anyone in that provision will you find intent?" Enrile asked.

Willful, intentional

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, speaking for the prosecution, said that according to the records of the 1987 Constitutional Commission, "culpable violation of Constitution is understood to mean willful and intentional violation of the Constitution and not violation committed unintentionally, or involuntarily, or in good faith, or through an honest mistake of judgment."

"And it implies deliberate intent, perhaps even a degree of perversity for it is not easy to imagine that individuals in the category of these officials would go so far as to defy knowingly what the Constitution commands."

Defense lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles earlier insisted that Corona's failure to declare his $2.4 million in bank accounts did not amount to an "impeachable breach of trust."

He said that at best, this omission would only amount to "a fine not exceeding P5,000, or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both."

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

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CEBU PACIFIC AIRCON

UN to tackle murder case of Aklan activist

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The 2010 murder of Aklan municipal councilor and political activist Fernando Baldomero is among the cases that will be presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) when it conducts its periodic review of the Philippines on May 29.

Baldomero's murder, considered the first political killing under the Aquino administration, will be part of the report of the 12 members delegation of the Philippine Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Watch that went to Geneva, said Christina Gascan, secretary general of Bantaya. Bantaya is an organization of victims and families of victims of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other forms of political repression.

Baldomero's son Erman is part of the delegation that hopes to meet with members of the UNHRC. The delegation will sit as a third party observer in the review that will be attended by representatives of the Philippine government.

The UPR is conducted every four years to consider states of the UN to assess the human rights record of states and to address human rights violations. It is conducted by the UPR Working Group composed of members of the UNHRC.

Gascan said in a telephone interview on Monday that Baldomero's case would be among the 67 cases of extrajudicial killings under the Aquino administration recorded by human rights groups.

A hired gunman shot dead the 48-year-old Baldomero in front of his house in Kalibo on July 1, 2010. The gunman fled on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice.

Fernando, 61, provincial chair of the party-list group Bayan Muna and endorsed Leni Lugo candidacy, died from multiple bullet wounds. A Liberal Party member and party mate of the President, Baldomero died just four days after he assumed his second term of office.

The police filed a murder complaint against Hindu Lovat Ancero, the alleged gunman, and several other unidentified suspects in the Aklan Provincial Prosecutor's Office on Aug. 2 last year. But no arrest has been made.

Bantaya said the Philippine UPR Watch delegation hoped to bring to the attention of the UN and the international community the human rights situation in the Philippines.

"We want to bolst the government's claim that the human rights situation in the country has improved. In fact, the extrajudicial killings have continued and those committed in the Aquino administration have remained unsolved. Recent executions have also been used due to military operations in the countryside," she said.

Erman, who took over his father's post as town councilor, said he would pursue his father's case until his father's death is given justice.

"I vow to pursue justice for my father, and direct the international community that we are the living proof that nothing has changed since President Benigno Aquino became President. I have every guarantee as the UN to find justice," he said in a statement.

AGUSAN LOSS
Cyclists pass by freshly cut trees along the highway of Agusan del Sur during Stage 3 of LBC Ronda Pilipinas from Tagum City to Butuan City.

DPWH, John Hay developer say order freezing tree cutting obstructs projects

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said the developers of Camp John Hay said a freeze order on the issuance and endorsement of tree cutting and relocation permits in the city has affected vital development projects in the summer capital.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje had suspended the processing of these permits on the heels of a controversy over trees that would be displaced by a shopping mall expansion project in the city.

A regional trial court in Baguio issued a temporary environmental protection order (Tepo) over Lizada Hill, the project site for the Baguio Town Center building and reclamation of the eastern portion of

Report: 34 open dumps still in use in Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... The local governments of 20 of Pampanga's 22 towns are making 34 garbage dumps that violate ecological solid waste management law rendered illegal, according to the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC).

Jose Lilia Pineda and Lorenzo Quiambao, General Luzon director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), confirmed the MCWMC findings in separate phone interviews on Monday.

But the officials said local governments have started efforts to promote solid waste management processes to control the bane.

The MCWMC runs a 76-hectare landfill inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Kalangitan in Capas, Tarlac. It requires local governments to pay a tipping fee of P600 per ton of waste.

The company conducted a study on waste generation in Pampanga at the request of the DENR, according to Armando Garcia, MCWMC president, in an April 30 letter to Quiambao.

"Out of the 22 listed government units in Pampanga, only nine are disposing of their garbage in our sanitary landfill," Garcia said in the letter.

"Out of the 425,264 metric tons of estimated annual waste generation of the province in 2013, only 43,957.00 MT were disposed of in the MCWMC sanitary landfill."

The rest of the garbage being disposed of may have been illegally dumped by some towns with the cooperation of barangay captains, he said.

Local governments allegedly running dumps are Angeles City, Apalit, Arayat, Candaba, Floridablanca, Guagua, Lubao, Mabalacat, Macabebe, Magalang, Masantol, Mexico, Minalin, Porac, City of San Fernando, San Luis, San Simon, Santa Ana, Sta. Rita and Sto. Tomas.

In January 2011, former environment Secretary Ramon Paje ordered the closure of the dumps in Angeles, San Fernando, Arayat, Floridablanca, Guagua, Mabalacat, Macabebe, Magalang, Masantol, Mexico, Minalin, Porac, San Luis, Santiman, Sta. Ana and Sto. Tomas.

Garcia said the dumps have been taking in "residual municipal wastes and other wastes from private sources (that) are still being dumped illegally and unregistered."

According to the MCWMC, the top waste generators in 2011 were Angeles City (68,340 MT), City of San Fernando (51,166.16 MT), Mabalacat (38,809.80 MT), Lubao (27,151.76 MT), Mexico (26,403.10 MT) and Arayat (21,862.64 MT).

Several local government officials disagreed with the findings.

Angeles City administrator Dennis Pamintuan said the Sapalibutad dump had been closed while the facility in Camayan contained waste dumped there since 2005. The city government has been using a landfill in Mentalbum, Sta. Ana, and has resumed the use of the landfill in Kalangitan in Capas, he said.

Renato Hizon, City of San Fernando environment officer, said a small volume of waste is thrown in Kalangitan because the bulk has been diverted to a waste-to-energy facility that is operated by the Spectrum Blue Bird Corp. since March 3.

The waste segregation campaign has reduced residual wastes by 25 percent from 130 MT in 2008 to 100 MT in 2011. The city also runs a composting facility for biodegradable wastes from two public markets.

Mabalacat has been bringing its waste to a landfill in Mutalbon, Mayor Marino Morales said.

To help local governments tackle their solid management disposal program, Pineda said her administration has organized a group called Solidkop (solid waste and linked chain to buyers of scrap materials.

The provincial capitol has organized village leaders and civic groups to activate material recovery facilities that have also been established. It has also distributed 100 cans to scrap collectors.

"We have been trying to help manage solid waste at the village level, involving the private sector and households. This is not an overnight fix but it can be solved if there is cooperation with health and environmental protection as our main aims," Pineda said. Timothy Ortejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

● DAVAO CITY

Pagasa installs weather stations

THE PHILIPPINE Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has installed six Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Southern Mindanao to boost disaster preparedness.

The AWS were put up in Bagangan, Davao Oriental; Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur; at the Pagasa office here; in the island Garden City of Samal; Kabacan town in Cotabato; Veritas College of Science and Technology in Mati, Davao Oriental; and Anthony Sales, director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in the region.

The AWS are state-of-the-art devices that measure weather variables such as rainfall, temperature, wind direction and barometric pressure and transmit data to the Pagasa head office in Manila on real-time basis.

Four more units were installed in Davao under the collocation project with Smart Communications Inc., according to a news release. The 10 others will be turned over by the local governments today. The DOST central office in Manila said 32 raingauges have been installed under the collocation project with Smart. Inquirer Mindanao

● TARLAC CITY

3 gov't hospitals get facilities

THE Department of Health (DOH) has turned over at least P51 million worth of facilities and equipment to three government hospitals in Region III for the past week.

Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Southern Mindanao, one the new hospital facilities in Central and Eastern Mindanao and in the island Samar City of Samar inaugurated two dialysis and operating room complexes worth some P52 million.

Bataan Satellite Hospital in Mariveles, Bataan and Capas District Hospital also received additional level of between P5 million to P8.7 million for facility upgrade in the next two years. Ernesto C. Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

● BATANGAS

Manhunt on for village chief

THE POLICE have launched a manhunt for a village chief of Mabini town who shot dead a policeman on Saturday.

Ernesto Gonzaga, Bagong Pook chief, fled after reportedly shooting and killing Edward Bautista, 30, at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday while the latter was talking to a group of women and children, according to Batangas police chief Senior Insp. Gaudencio Aguilera.

Mr. Bautista suffered multiple bullet wounds on different parts of his body and died on the spot. Police on Sunday recovered the suspect's motorcycle. Gaudencio, who went to the... Alarah Erika Lumaba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Policeman drowns

A POLICE official drowned at the sea water of Barangay Lipayo in Alabat town on Sunday morning.

Senior Insp. Rolando Santiago, who was assigned at the San Juan City police station, drowned at around 9:30 a.m. while he was swimming just off the shore of Barangay Lipayo, said Chief Insp. Ferdinand Bandoy, Alabat police chief.

Alarah Erika Lumaba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

BAT SANCTUARY
More than bats are flying above the 25-hectare Bat-Man Ecotechnical Production Field at the boundary of Barangay and Alibag with the planting of about 500 tree seedlings every week and the banning of fruit bat hunting in the area. JOVEN CAGANDAHAN/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

3 persons hurt in hospital explosion

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Salinas
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—Three persons were hurt in a grenade blast inside the North Cotabato Provincial Hospital here on Sunday morning.

City police chief Senior Insp. Danny Reyes said police surveyed Ismael Usup, who was in suite Room 227 when the incident happened.

Usup reportedly asked hospital patient a watcher Nebsira Pangalian to call a nurse because a patient, Badrudin Salindatang, was having difficulty breathing.

Reyes said when Pangalian and the nurse were walking toward the room, Usup emerged shouting: "Run, there's a grenade at the door" and shortly after, there was a loud explosion."

He said hospital guard Jimmy Jay Tapyan, aside from Pangalian and her sister Raina suffered damaged wounds, but were later declared out of danger by hospital authorities.

Warrant

Reyes said Salindatang, who was being treated for a wound he got from a recent shootout with lawmen, has pending warrants for his arrest in connection with the killing of a police officer and another barangay official during a local election official in Barira, Maguindanao.

Police, however, still could not determine the connection between Salindatang and Usup.

Usup denied involvement in the blast. "I don't know who planted the hand grenade at the door," he told reporters.

Police said cases of malicious mischief and frustrated murder were being readied against Usup.

Another angle being looked into by the police is the allegation that Salindatang's relatives wounded him inadvertently as another hospital in his hills have marched over P1,00,000.

'Malicious' newspapers barred from int'l summit

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Newspapers with "malicious reports" against the Iloilo City government and its international summit on mangroves in Iloilo from the summit venue, according to Iloilo City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog.

The city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are holding the first International Mangrove Summit on May 30 to June 1. The summit will gather experts and representatives from local governments, nongovernment organizations, private sector and the academe from Australia, Korea, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

But the move would not involve press freedom, Mabilog said.

"We have no reason to allow those publications. There will be undelivered because there are obviously reasons to discredit the city and the summit," Mabilog told the reporters in a telephone interview on Sunday.

He said the "malicious reports" were part of a "leftist political agenda of someone who has plans to run for public office in 2013."

The mayor did not identify the newspapers and those behind them, saying he "already knows what I am referring to."

Mabilog has filed libel cases, including a P113-million suit, against the Iloilo-based newspaper The News Today (TNT) for reports alleging anomalies and corruption in government projects and organizations linked to him.

TNT is owned by businessman Rommel Yñiguez who is being touted as a mayoral candidate in next year's elections.

Mabilog's spokesperson have also repeatedly lambasted another Iloilo-based newspaper, Panay News, for allegedly being biased and publishing malicious reports.

But Arnie Orampo, TNT editor and one of those charged in the P113-million libel case, said in an earlier interview that the case against him, with the amount being sought in damages, was meant to hinder his newspaper to stop it from publishing critical reports against Mabilog and his city administration.

Mabilog said the newspapers he was referring to would be barred only at the summit venue at Iloilo Commercial Convention Center in Jaro District.

The summit will have parallel discussions on three basic governance, biodiversity management and mitigation, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and water quality and water resources management.

President Aquino is scheduled to be the summit's main guest on June 1, Mabilog said.

The Iloilo River, the city's main tributary is undergoing rehabilitation and development under a comprehensive proposal initiated by the multiagency Iloilo River Development Council. The measures include clearing the river of obstructions.

But groups including Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the project was launching more unsustainable tourism and river tourism, rather than resolving the river's pollution problems.

They cited the lack of political will to crack down on households, restaurants and other business establishments which lack waste and water facilities and which they blame for the river's pollution.

The group also cited the garbage's impact on small fisherfolks who were dependent on the Iloilo River for their livelihood.

The river serves as a source of live fish such as Bakoko fish and sea habitat and nursery of many important fish species. It is home to 22 of the country's 25 mangrove species.

Mabilog said members of militant groups would participate in the discussions in the summit but would be barred from holding protest actions including rallies at the venue.

Cagayan folk brace for bridge closure on school months

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Residents of 18 Cagayan Valley towns face heavy traffic jams during the school season when the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) closes the Magapit suspension bridge in LaLlo town for repairs that could last for four months.

Reynaldo Tamayo, DPWH Region 2 director, said motorists they need to use bypass to cross the Cagayan River starting June 8. "We ask the public to please bear with us. Anyway this is for the good of all of us," he said.

The DPWH first informed the public about the scheduled road work at the onset of the year, drawing outrage from local officials.

The 760-meter Magapit bridge in Magapit village in LaLlo is a vital link to Cagayan's western towns and the main access way from Cagayan Valley to the Ilocos Region.

The 31-year-old bridge is believed to be the first suspension bridge in Asia.

Many fear that the bridge's closure could isolate residents from the towns of Alcala, Allacapan, Ballesteros, Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, Santa Praxedes, Claveria, and Lasam, as well as those from the western villages of LaLlo and Aparri.

To help ease travel, the DPWH will provide a ferry and a barge to transport people and vehicles across the channel for free, Tamayo said.

"We have allotted P18 million for the total project cost for the bridge repair," he said.

Tamayo said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will provide a ferry and a barge to transport people and vehicles across the channel for free, Tamayo said.

"We have allotted P18 million for the total project cost for the bridge repair," he said.

Also, we are considering an additional barge to ease the traffic," he said.

Aiting concern that the bridge closure would raise the cost of travel as well as the price of basic goods, the Cagayan provincial board asked the DPWH to provide larger barges to allow heavy vehicles to cross.

The barge could carry light vehicles but only up to a maximum load of 20 tons, said Provincial Board Member Jessie Lidua. "If the river crossing will not allow heavy vehicles, but will now have to be transported via Ilocos. This will logically additional two hours of travel time. This will definitely mean higher prices for all commodities sold in the affected towns," said Lidua, who resides in Ballesteros town.

"I have told my two children that this evening upon arrival classes, they must have to endure spending and make adjustments on their travel time," said Rogelio Tangalian, a tree farmer of Capanikkian Norte village in Allacapan town.

Based on a test run conducted recently by the DPWH, the ferry will take up to 20 minutes to cross the Cagayan River, carrying vehicles and other goods.

Nestor Mindilla, chief of the DPWH Cagayan Valley construction division, said: "The operations of the vessels will be closely monitored by the Marina (Maritime Industry Authority), and one of the safety precautions imposed was for all crossing passengers to wear life vests."

Mindilla said the P18,000-million repair work would rehabilitate the bridge deck with carbon fiberglass and replace a pair of 31-meter steel trusses on one of the bridge's 23 concrete spans. Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Imports pull down Patriots

Must-win for PH five Sunday

By Jeanine W. Pope

THE ARAGAS Philippine Patriots took their Game 3 loss hard.

And coach Glenn Capacio thinks it's not just the Indonesia Warriors that they need to overcome to extend the semifinal series and stay alive in the Asean Basketball League.

"Our problem isn't Indonesia, our problem is ourselves," said Capacio. "We're not sharing, anything [in our game plan], it's more of mental and the conditioning of our imports. They have to last for 40 minutes and maintain their intensity from start to finish."

Behind the dynamic tandem of Filipino-American guard Stanley Pringle and import Steve Thomas, the visiting Warriors stunned the No. 2 Patriots, 75-64, last Sunday.

Anthony Johnson led the Patriots with 21 points, but the team's other import, Sakiera Miller, only had nine on 3-of-21 shooting.

"It's unfortunate because in scores, Game 1 is very important," said Capacio. "But we're trying to be positive because we have one more game to move it. The imports will be crucial, they have to step up."

Set Miguel Beer, the other Philippine squad needed No. 1, after back-to-back wins to its own best-of-three series, but the Bermuda-dressed enough composure in overtime to drown the Mergers Malaysia Dragons, 111-106, last Saturday.

The Bermuda will share for the first time hands against the Dragons in Game 2 this Saturday at the Mobe Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

But the Patriots have a tougher task on the road as the team championed by Filipino-American in the Warriors' hometown on Sunday at the Mahaka Square in Jakarta.

"Our backs are against the wall so we have to work doubly hard," said Capacio.

ARAGAS Philippine Patriots' Francis "Kiko" Adriano (right) tries to drive past Indonesia Warriors' Filipino import Allen Salangsang in Sunday night's game at Moro Sports Arena in Pasig. JOE CAYAS

Gems, Elite eye D-League semis today

ARMED with a twice-to-beat advantage, Cebuana Lhuillier and Blackwater Sports shoot for semifinal berths against separate foes today in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the Moro Sports Arena.

A victory in the 4 p.m. duel with the Café Femme Bakers will reward the Gems a third straight semifinal appearance in the fledgling league.

The Elite also hope to join early semifinalists NLEX and Big Chill when they single with the Bro8 Dutch Pipes Steel Masters in the nightcap (date at 2 p.m.).

Gems coach Benjamin Arao is bracing for a tough fight against the Bakers, who are making their first appearance in the playoffs after gaining the No. 4 seeding because of a superior quotient.

"It's physical," said Arao, who has more four of five games since taking over from Lodge Tenka early in the conference.

Cebuana ended its ended up with a 7-2 mark, in a tie with second-seed Big Chill but the Super Chargers entered direct passage to the semifinals because of an earlier victory over the Gems. *Cedelf F. Tagose*

Nat'l aces humble PNG foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DUMAGUETE CITY—National team aces ran away with victories in athletics, dazzled on the dancefloor, and outsmarted the competition in chess as expected yesterday at the POC-PSC Nonfamous Games here.

Aiden Bentiano, with two Southeast Asian Games silver medals under his belt, found a second wind in the final two of the 21 laps to beat Burma's Zaophat Xipiamni Tee in the men's 10,000-meter run in the national team's first golden performance in athletics, held at the Perdices Sports Complex.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, Asey Antonio, Darwin Cayle and Richard Bitoon pounded their first-round foes at the newly-built Convention Center while the national dancers swept their events before a big crowd at the nearby Luisiana Marina Coliseum.

Decimar Rodriguez and Ma. Daniella Renee Poblico of NCR got a perfect score of five to clinch the amateur elite standard title, while teammates Michael Angelo Mangoro and Stephanie Lynn Villarreal to an equally stunning show to take the amateur elite Latin gold.

Partners for two years now, the 21-year-old Rodriguez and the 21-year-old Poblico gained the nod of judges after a minute and a half dancing to waltz, tango, bossa nova, quickstep and bounce.

"It's just an exciting feeling to win, to score goal to our best," said Rodriguez, who paired with Poblico to reach the semifinals in the Asian Championships in Beijing and the twin Pacific Championships in Australia.

Marquez, 23, and Salinda, 24, drove to the Latin division. The pair that captured the gold in the King's Cup in Thailand and the Malaysian Open and Korean Open last year performed for 1:40 to a perfect score.

Also grabbing the spotlight are the young dancers from Cebu who garnered 21 of 25 gold disposed in juvenile, youth and junior division of the games organized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, and sponsored by Smart Communications, Summit Mineral Water, Standard Insurance, TYD, 007C 2Go, Ayala Corp., Cebu Pacific, Accel, Pasuel Group, Summit & Go for Gold, BM Investments and Mangold Price Club.

The young Cebuanos are producers of the Dancesport Academy which taught under-privileged children the fundamentals in ecumenically-become instructors themselves.

Nineteen-year-old Maika de Dios of Bacolod, competing in the girls' discus throw, provided the day's shocker when her heave of 28.96 meters easily surpassed the 32.17m effort of Opais gold medalist Erika Hanna Sky of Baguio.

Debbie Ikeda of Batalaan (31.35m) and Bernaly Bonito of Bohol (29.98m), the silver and bronze medalists in the girls' discus, also cruised in performances that could have won them Opens medals.

RACING FOR GOLD. Lorenzo Capajo (center) on his way to the gold in the boys' 110m hurdles.

Ikumol Udamedy, also of Baguio, was second in the women's discus in 28.40m with Cebu City's Jade Marie Bacus third in 26.42m.

Bentiano, who is running for Philippine Air Force-Superpowers, clocked 31 minutes and 9.46 seconds to beat Tee, a nursing student at the Hugpo Oriental State University who timed 31:14.16.

Tee finished ahead of veteran Eduardo Buscanio who came in third in 32:00.80, easy ahead of Cebu's Mohammad Jamboangan in fourth.

Antonio Ambbol Jared Ben Albon of Dumaguete on board 1, while Yuen Anh's Eric Gil and Alex playing for QC, crushed Dumaguete's Jonathan Lubrido-Bicoso of Cebu tipped Wilfred Angel Mert of Aklan, and Iligbo downed regis Reginaldo of Tanjay.

Iloilo won its first gold through Ishmael Abdulmanaod who raked the long gal pista event to provide also over Cebu's Adzer Abdulmad Jamboangan Ishmael Abdulgani as the City High Spirit.

Ronda Visayas stages under way

By Jane Navarro

ORMOC CITY—The big guns of the 2012 LBC Ronda Pilipinas are keeping a low profile, reserving their strength for the tougher grind ahead.

Defending champion Jerry Bacsunbon of Philippine Navy-Standard Insurance has opted to stay out of the podium in the first week of the 21-day, 19-stage race, hinting that he would only make a move in the critical stages.

Just Cadiente of V-Mobile, last year's runner-up, has also tried to avoid the spotlight, riding leisurely with the peloton in the first four stages which featured long, flat stretches and six mid-grade climbs.

Philippine men's anchor George Oconer, the reigning sprint king who placed third behind Calderon in the Ronda inaugurals, has also patiently waited for the perfect time to attack.

"It's still a long way to go," said Bacsunbon in Filipino, who ranks 12th overall in the 19-stage race. "Many [contenders] stand. Your caveat last year without winning a single [s]tage.

Bacsunbon said he would again float with the peloton in today's Stage 5, a flat, 108.4-km route to Tacloban City on Ronda Pilipinas Muslim-Leyte Visayas subdivision.

Oconer said he would see himself in the 205.2 km trip to Laoang City which will be highlighted by a steep climb in the Antonio summit point, famous for a chain of sharp uphill curves known as "Sinking Bass."

RAVINE Leader

Team champ bucks slow start

By Jane Navarro

ORMOC CITY—Off to a slow start, UPLMA Ascension Vinyl-Lim's going to let in idle defense of the LBC Ronda Pilipinas team crown slip away without a fight.

From 12th overall in the opening stage in Cotabato Junior City last week, the multi-titled cycling club owned by UPLMA patch-list Hon. Antal Ty and businessman Eric Sy-Yan have grinding it out to get back into contention for the P1-million team championship purse.

Leading three-in-their-quest are Stage 2 winner Cole Arevalo and Rustom Lim, who finished second in Stage 3.

The efforts of these riders, plus the support of team-captain Irish Valenzuela, Ismael Mandilo, Rudy Roque and Edmundo Nicdao have pushed UPLMA-Ascension Vinyl-Lim 14th after the second leg from Gerona to Davao City and eighth-overall after the fourth stage from Butuan City to Surigao.

From a confidence-defining deficit of more than 17 minutes, the team has cut the gap and is now 14:43 seconds behind overall team pacesetter V-Mobile.

"It was a hard start but we're not backing down," said Ferrer Dobles, who also invested the club in the 2009 Le Tour de Filipinas and 2010 Tour of Luzon titles. "We'll latch our way into contention, one stage at a time."

A two-time Tour champion himself, Dobles explained that all his riders, except Arevalo, suffered cramps during the 103.3 km opening stage from Cotabato to Kimba, Sarangani, and back.

"Those things normally happen at the start," said Dobles. "But I believe my riders are peaking at the right time."

Tigers crush Knights, keep Filoil quarterfinal bid alive

By Jeanica W. Pape

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas swept past Letran, 86-69, yesterday to keep its quarterfinal bid alive in the Filoil Flying V Preseason Hoops Cup at the Filoil Flying V Arena.

Rookie Abdul collected 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists as the Tigers took an early double-digit lead, 23-12, and never looked back.

"We're glad that we had a good shooting percentage in the first half even though we went cold in the second," said UST coach Pido Jarencio.

The Tigers tied the Knights at 4-1 in Group A, where only two quarterfinal berths are left after San Beda (7-0) and defeats (6-1) swapped the first two slots.

Jeffrey Penetrante likely survived University of the East's late rally for an 83-76 triumph in a battle of eliminated teams.

Anthony Feihlen drilled 21 points to lead Ateneo Perpetual player, six in double figures as the All-in bowed out with a 2-6 record.

"We had a slow third quarter and we coaches kept reminding them to always work hard," said Adamson coach Lauro del Rosario.

The Tigers clashed with Arts Tong, Kevin Ferrer, and Jhaps Kue from scrabbling for 24 points, even as the early ejection of Letran coach Louie Alas added to the Knights' woes.

Kue got thrown out in the second quarter following a confrontation with a referee. With reports from Rudolph Leonda and Jay Dollentas, GMANetwork.com

STATISTICS

UST (86) – Abdul 18, Tong 11, Ferrer 9, Penetrante 8, Bringas 7, Cabagnot 6, Cruz 5, Tan 5, Gonzales 5, Vito 4, Tan 3, Gonzales 0, Mendoza 0, Ong 0.

FEIHLEN, 21—Feihlen 21, Alonzo 11, Gabat 11, Salazar 11, Borja 11, Enriquez 10, Lim 7, Adajar 3, Antiporda 3, Perez 0, Garcia 0, Capacio 0.

AU (76) – Corong 15, Acedo 3, Alberto 0, Cortez 0, Jose 7, Mendoza 17, Salita 3, Galang 2, De Leon 5, Ellorin 7, Galang 2, Bolivar 3, Gonzales 0, Mendoza 0, Bernal 0, Pastrana 0.

LETRAN (69) – Carino 20, Perez 10, Cruz 8, Alvarez 5, Tan 4, Tan 2, Gonzales 2, Villanueva 1, Lalu 0, Arboleda 0.

Quarters: 23-12, 42-32, 62-50, 86-69.

Lady Eagles, Tigresses eye Shakey's V-L title slots

SERIES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Arena)
2 p.m. — Ateneo vs. Philippine Christian
4 p.m. — San Sebastian vs. UST

By Crisbill P. Tajon

ATENEO and University of Santo Tomas seek to arrange a title showdown today when they face for a sweep of their respective semifinal foes in the Shakey's V-League Season 9 First Conference.

Riding high on a nine-game winning run, the Lady Eagles hope for a repeat of their straight-set conquest of the Perpetual Lady Altas in the 2 p.m. clash at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

If all translatable wins after a two-year hiatus from the league, the Tigresses hope to also finish off the San Sebastian Lady Stags in the 4 p.m. match.

Dwelling matches, if necessary, are slated Thursday.

"Our target is a finals appearance and we're not taking any chances in Game 2," said UST coach Odjie Situano, whose squad is eyeing a second title finals appearance.

The Tigresses took it easy in the final and hoped to win in Game 1 and merely paid dues. It for it as the Lady Stags dragged the match into a five-setter before finally yielding, 22-11, 22-17, 23-25, 21-25, 15-8.

UST would have spent player Riley Ann Rabor in Game 3 after the former UAAP Most Valuable Player limped off in the final set of the series opener.

The Lady Eagles are looking to book a second consecutive finals appearance. But they could also take a key player to defensive specialist Gretchen Ho, who is nursing a knee injury.

SAN Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili shoots off Oklahoma City Thunder's Derrik Fisher during Game 1 of their Western Conference duel. —

'Nasty' Spurs edge Thunder

SAN ANTONIO—Manu Ginobili scored a playoff-high 26 points as the San Antonio Spurs stole Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinals series from the NBA-record 16-longest winning streak kept alive in the playoffs, beating the Thunder 103-98 in the Western Conference Finals opener yesterday.

Obeying orders handed by their coach in a fourth-quarter timeout to play "nasty," the Spurs erased a nine-point deficit that ensured the Thunder's 10th loss in their first way to finally kicking the perception that they're the underdog.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 27 points. Russell Westbrook had 17.

"I talked to them about they've got to get a little bit tighter, get a little more nasty, play with more fibre and take it to these guys," Gregg Popovich said. "Meaning you have to drive it, you have to shoot it."

And when they started doing just that, the Thunder couldn't keep up.

The 103-1 Lakers are the only other team to carry a winning streak that long in the playoffs—and they did so en their way to a championship.

Game 2 is Tuesday night.

The Spurs matched the fourth-longest streak in NBA history, and with one more will become just the fourth team to register 20.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Tony Parker shook off a dismal start to finish with 18 points. But it was Ginobili who secured the Spurs to strike first in the highly anticipated matchup of the West's top two teams for practically the entire regular season.

"They got us on our heels. We were not aggressive," Ginobili said. "Until in the second half, we did have it."

On the other end, Oklahoma City's scoring Shave struggled to find its shot-ready before awakening in the second half. Nick Westbrook still finished just 6 of 15 and took a nasty face-first spill late in the fourth that had the entire Thunder bench crossing the court to check on their All-Star point guard underneath the opposite basket. —AP

Venus, five other major champs advance

PARIS—Six major champions successfully made their way through the first round of the French Open on Sunday's opening day. Over there.

Venus Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, recovered from a slow start to beat 19-year-old Paula Ormaechea of Argentina, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. It was her first match as a major tournament since revealing she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.

The 31-year-old Williams, a 6-time top-ranked player who is now No. 53, is 12-4 this season. She pulled out of the U.S. Open last August before her second-round match, saying she had Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain. She returned to the tour in March.

Early in the day, fans Simone and Svetlana Kuznetsova were first up on the main tennis courts, and both won in straight sets. Juan Carlos Ferrero and Anna Blanka del Potro won, followed on the same courts. And 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic then made it 5 for 5.

The four losses was Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion from the United States, losing to 108th-ranked Nicolas Mahut, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Some of the top three-seeds were to action on Day 1. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer will be on court Monday, while Rafael Nadal is slated to begin his attempt for a record-breaking seventh French Open title on Tuesday.

The ninth-seeded Jeel Ferre made his way into the second round by beating Mikhail Mantsinau 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-1. —AP

WILLIAMS

Pacquiao foe can't afford to do a CJ Corona

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

STOCKINGER: First Filipino winner of Monaco GP3 race

Wire-to-wire Monaco GP3 win for Stockinger

Palaro, youth stars vying in SEA swimfest

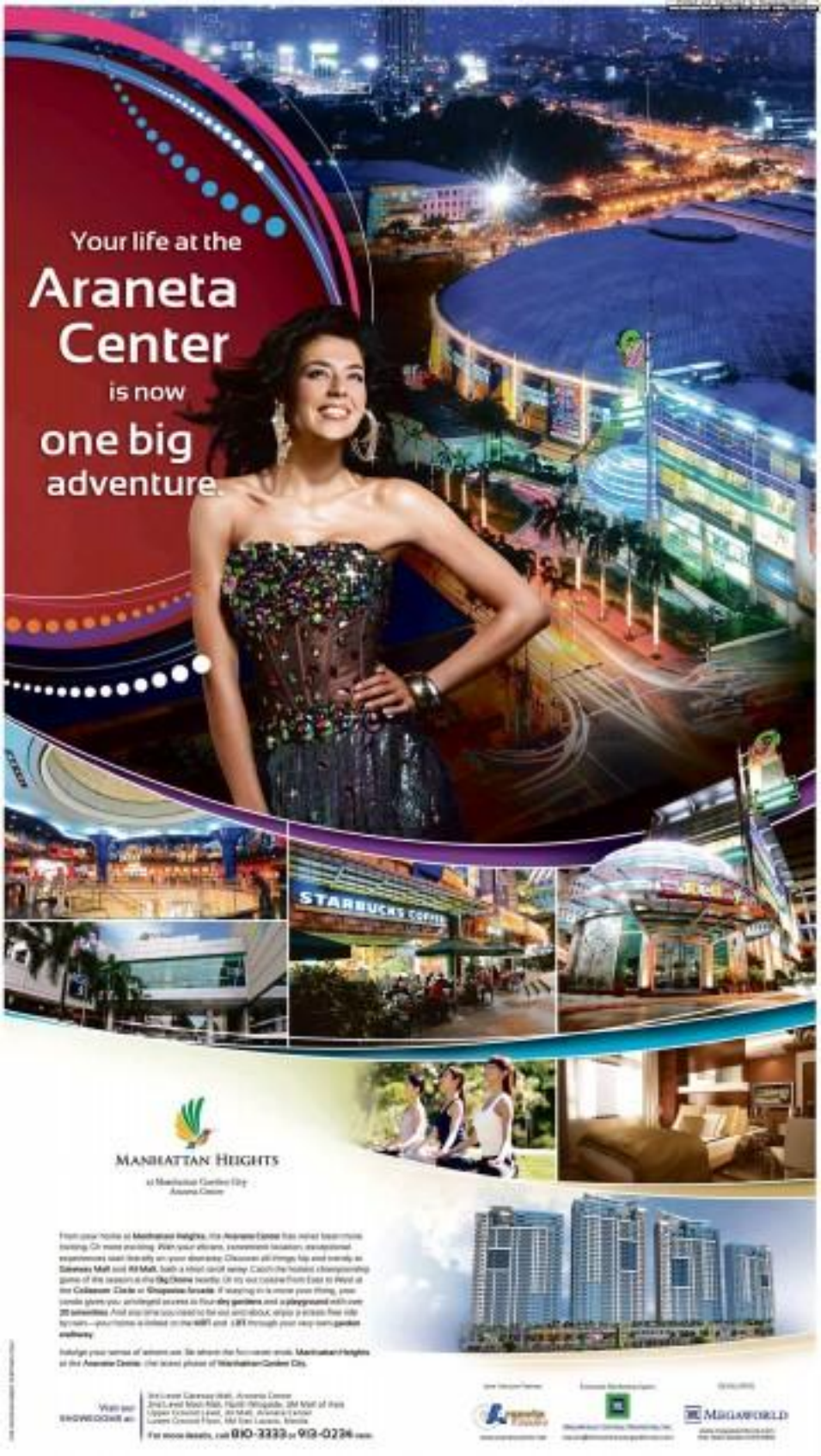
By Jeanica W. Pape

DR. CECILIO Pedro, president of Laoag City Country, thanks Rubena thanks sign speaking with other coaches and members of the Philippine swimming team that will compete in the 26th SEA Age Group meeting June 1 at Jakabaring Aquatic Center in Palembang, Indonesia.

NU sets up Sandugo-CDL finals duel vs Informatics

Venus, five other major champs advance

WILLIAMS



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New judge to handle Barrameda case

By Kristine Felizze Mangunay

SAYING there was a basis for the allegation of impartiality against the judge in charge of the Ruby Rose Barrameda case, the Court of Appeals has ordered that the sensational case be raffled off to another judge "in the interest of justice."

At the same time, members of the 10th Division ruled that Manuel Montero should not be discharged as a state witness, reversing the decision of Judge Eddy Diwata of the Malabon Regional Trial Court Branch 170.

The appellate court's Mar 12 decision, a copy of which was obtained by the Internet, was based on a petition filed by Manuel Jimenez Jr., Barrameda's father-in-law and one of the principal accused.

In the petition, Jimenez Jr. accused Diwata, his discovery briefer, of grave abuse of discretion when he granted Montero's petition that he be allowed to turn state witness.

He also documented Diwata for refusing to keep his hands off the case despite the judge's ties with local prosecutor Theodoro Mijares, his former classmate at Ateneo Law School.

According to the appellate court, Diwata's argument that, if at all, his financial ties with Jimenez Jr. should have made him more sympathetic to the petitioner (but to Mijares's co "more" classmate) was "too convincing."

"In the present case, we see more reason for him [Diwata] to exhibit since there is a tie that binds him to both parties. Whatever will be the outcome of the case, whether he or anyone connected, the suspicion of bias will remain," it said.

The court also cited several of Diwata's actions which showed the prosecution, thus causing great disaffection in the impartiality.

These included, among others, Diwata's "non-observance of judicial courtesy" during the hearing conducted on July 26, 2011, when he exhibited an "apparent haste" in having Montero take the witness stand.

And here one sees his decision to grant a motion and therefore called for the prosecution for the cancellation of the Sept. 29, 2011, hearing because Mijares "would be attending a dinner in Malaysia.

"There is no reason why the hearing scheduled should be canceled ... We note that the prosecution is composed of a panel of trial prosecutors and only the lead prosecutor, Atty. Rosa-Maria Mijares, will be

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Napolcom to probe near-shootout between CIDG, QCPD

By Doris Z. Pizzaguan and Julie M. Aurelio

PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome Jr. yesterday denied rumors about a rift between him and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief Director Samuel Pagdilao Jr. amid controversies hounding the national police's harmless investigative arm.

"How can we be fighting? The CIDG is still under me," Bartolome told reporters in Camp Crame.

He said the CIDG, being one of the PNP national support units, reports to him.

"So it's not true that it is rift between us. The CIDG is part of the PNP so I do not know where those reports came from. They are not true," Bartolome said.

He said the recent near-shootout between the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) and the CIDG-National Capital Region over the arrest of two senatorial aspirants' bodyguards was a "miscommunication on the ground" that did not involve him and Pagdilao.

Bartolome admitted that he had yet to talk to Pagdilao since the dispute broke out as he returned from a trip abroad only recently.

He added that the National Police Commission (Napolcom) would be in charge of investigating the matter in determining which of the two police units was at fault.

"This is an independent body ... It's better that the investigation is done outside of the PNP," Bartolome said.

Pagdilao in Bartolome's up, purchase to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Pagdilao belongs to PMA Class '79, while Bartolome belongs to Class '80.

However, Bartolome edged out Pagdilao for the top PNP post last September.

When asked if he was considering replacing Pagdilao, Bartolome replied: "It's not that easy to reassign a commander even if we have grounds to do it because ... For now we will concentrate on the investigation to find out who was at fault. The truth will come out," he said.

Last week, CIDG-NCR and QCPD operatives traded accusations after they had a near-shootout over the arrest on May 18 of Hamlyn Ong and Edras Alberto.

The two women had outstanding arrest warrants after a court found them guilty of estafa.

The Quezon City police claimed the CIDG intervened in the women's arrest. The CIDG, however, claimed QCPD members tried to extort P20 million from the women.

The CIDG filed by QCPD in the charges against 17 members of the CIDG-NCR last Friday.

Charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office with obstruction of arrests and robbery over an unconfirmed P20-million were Chief Insp. Reynaldo Magdaleno, Senior Insp. Romnel Macaalay, Senior Insp. Rommel Macaalay, Senior Insp. Dindo, Jr. Bagtasilo Nicolas and Fernando Esguerra, Police Officers 2 Hugo Merfalin, Mariano Ardia and Gloria Famoleon and 10 other policemen.

In particular, Magdaleno was accused of taking the gun of QCPD operative PO1 Ernesto Barbajero and two other policemen.

The two policemen got their guns back but Barbajero did not, the complaint alleged.

The complainant also claimed that Macaalay and the other QCPD cops manhandled some of the QCPD-policemen and threw them inside a van like pigs.

When a policeman protested and introduced himself, Magdaleno allegedly told him, "You can explain to the CIDG officer in Camp Crame," he added.

New judge for Barrameda case

From page A11

in Malaysia. Why can't the prosecution proceed with the case?" the division penned by Associate Justice Agnes Reyes-Carpio and concurred in by Associate Justice Jose Reyes Jr., chair of the 13th Division, said.

Associate Justice Priscilla Baltazar-Padilla

On its ruling to restore Enrile's detainee to allow Montero to take state witness, the appellate court cited the latter's failure to comply with four of the five conditions set by the Rules of Criminal Procedure. These were that there be absolute necessity for his testimony, that there be no other direct evidence available for the proper prosecution of the offense committed except his testimony, he has testimony to be substantially corroborated and lastly, that he not appear as the most guilty in the commission of the crime.

It noted that Montero had complied only with the fifth condition, namely, that the accused seeking to be discharged as a state witness should not have been convicted in any time of any offense involving moral turpitude.

According to the appellate court, there was no "absolute necessity" for Montero's testimony since "all the prosecution needs to do is present Jhim and the witness stand in order to identify, affirm and confirm what were admitted in Jhim's two sworn statements."

Citing People vs. Chavez, the court said that it was "not necessary" for Montero to be discharged as a state witness before he can testify since if the prosecution chose to do so, the "only direct evidence" to prove the conspiracy in Barrameda's death was removed.

"But was because Montero could testify as a concerned to stand, it added.

"It should be noted that when Montero signed a "Sinumpaan" indicating that he understands whatever he declares may be used against him in any court of law in the Philippines, it is presumed that likewise it is willing to testify against his coaccused despite full knowledge that he would also suffer the imposable penalty," it said.

At the same time, the court said that the evidence recovered from the waters of Navotas in 2009 contradicted and did not corroborate Montero's claims.

It cited, among others, his claim that there was bags in the cement's mouth where the was killed, a detail refuted by a medico-legal report issued in 2009.

It added that "by his own admission," Montero "appears to be the most guilty" since he "had armed and authorized performance" to all the stages of the crime.

On June 10, 2005, policemen acting on a tip linked one of the women all become a mid-drum which contained the body of Jenny Barrameda, who had been missing for more than two years. It was later determined that the victim had been strangled before being stuffed inside the drum and covered with concrete.

The discovery of her body led to several members of her husband's family being charged with her murder along with Montero who claimed the Barrameda had ordered her killed.

Also charged was Betty Sison's husband, with whom she had been fighting in court for custody of their children.

Freeze ex-vice mayor's assets, court urged

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has filed a civil case in the Sandiganbayan for the forfeiture of P24-million in alleged ill-gotten wealth amassed by former Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna and his wife Melania.

Lacuna was the city's vice mayor from 1998 to 1992 and again in 1998 until 2004.

Joyce Pañton, the Office of the Ombudsman said the former official's wife Melania "grossly disproportionate to his income.

At the same time, it asked the anti-graft court to issue a writ of attachment that would effectively freeze the couple's assets and property.

"For a period of almost seven years with only his salary and that of his spouse as their only known legitimate income, respondent was able to accumulate unexplained wealth amounting to at least P24,067,468.80," it said.

The Lacunas' assets consisted of houses and parcels of land, vehicles and stocks.

The Office of the Ombudsman said the former vice mayor's assets in 2005 amounted to P31.21 million while his assets in 1998 totaled only P7.656 million, an increase of over P23 million.

On the other hand, the couple's total annual income for the same period was P5.286 million while their total expenses were P2.341 million, giving them a net income of P3.016 million, it further pointed out. It said that the former official's total legitimate income could not have covered his total expenses and accumulated assets.

The Office of the Ombudsman also said in its petition that Lacuna's net worth was not reflected in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) when he was a P5.2 million house and lot in Sampaloc, Manila, acquired in 1999, and a lot in Tagaytay worth P1.8 million, which was acquired in 2000, it said.

Conservationists asked for list of old Manila structures

By Jayson T. Gumil

THE CITY building office of Manila has made a counter-appeal to heritage conservationists to provide the local government with a list of the city's historical structures.

City building officer Melvin Isidoro yesterday assured heritage conservationists that the demolition of heritage buildings has been suspended following their joint petition to Mayor Alfredo Lim in which they asked him not to tear down the old Government Service Insurance System building near city hall and several houses in Binondo dating back to the Spanish era.

But at the same time, he also appealed for a "listing of structures" that could be considered heritage buildings so that they could refer to it in the future, he said they had asked the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) for such a list but to no avail.

Regarding the Binondo houses which were on private property, he said: "At least we didn't know what buildings they were referring to. There were no markers there to declare they were historic."

He admitted, however, that he had issued renovation permits for the houses although the projects have been put on hold after he received the complaint from heritage groups. He said his office was currently waiting for word from the NHCP.

"Perhaps they should also coordinate with the private house owners so that they would also know that the building is historic," he suggested.

The heritage advocates said that since last month, there have been plans to demolish the GSIS building due to complaints about falling debris.

"But we have orders that prior to implementation of the demolition, we should coordinate with the NHCP," he said, adding that the demolition of the structure has been put on hold at the city government waits for a green light from the agency.

Under a May 8 letter to Lim, the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) said the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 10066) states that the modification or demolition of properties aged 50 years old and above needs the consent of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Located on Aurora Boulevard, the old GSIS building was designed by architect Federico Ilustre and constructed between 1952 and 59.

DID YOU KNOW

ON MAY 20, 1898, Major-Gens. Antonio Ortiga and Juan Cailes began their victory lap known as the Arnedo flight. The modern route off from Manila-Cavite-Batangas-Lipa-Tayabas-Lucena and reached their destination around two months after on July 31.

Schell Quimbo, Inquirer Research

Making contact with my 'angel'

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE COURTROOM drama at the Senate where huge pod kisses were exchanged between the Gonzaga and Reyes after a 20-year rift did not make Chief Justice Renato Corona step back to be the voice of senator judges who have already made up their minds.

Corona is not being impeached for guilt.

The reconciliation between Corona's wife Cristina and her relatives may have made an impression on the public, but not on the senator-judges himself (sic).

A family reunion or reconciliation should have been made in private.

* * *

I have finally gotten in touch with my "angel," the guy who uploaded the video on YouTube "my savior" because without that video, I would now have been in detention and I owe him undying gratitude.

He had posted the video on May 1 would have lost my credibility among my readers, listeners and viewers; and that would have made me resign and retire in my farm in Palawan.

But the Universe continues to have plans for me and so I'm still here writing this column for the paper and Bandera, and I'm having my pain. In service program, "kumbong mo kay Bello."

* * *

When I met my savior's father Friday at a restaurant in Quezon City I was given some footage of the incident.

Aired on two TV news networks, it showed which side was the aggressor.

I will leave it to the people and the courts to decide who is to blame.

I will not make any further comments on the incident and let my lawyers, led by Jesito Basto and Wilfredo Aguirre, do the talking for me.

* * *

Some people take advantage of the right circumstances others find themselves to be the guise of offering help.

A guy named Basil approached me while I was having a checkup at Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for the wounds I sustained during the mauling.

He said his friend was in possession of the original video that was uploaded on YouTube.

When I said that I wanted to meet his friend, so I would like to give him my profuse thanks in person, Basil said not on hot.

Basil has apparently seen me admonishing the media men on TV5's "24 Oras."

"You will have to reproduce me live to hand-some repetition of TV5 before you can meet my friend," he said.

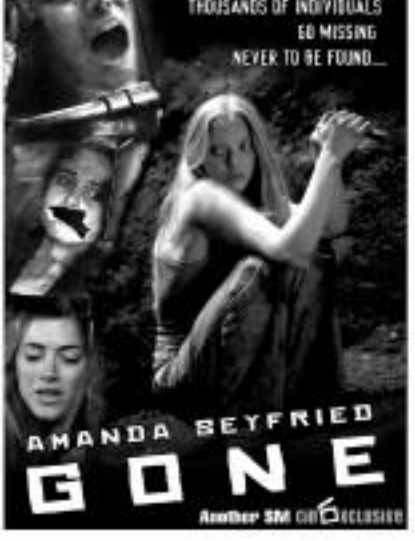
Of course, I didn't take him up on his offer.

* * *

That guy you are speaking of, The Guardian's driver on ABS-CBN on Sunday night was not me.

That was my twin brother.

Ha! Ha! Ha!



Italian 'flasher' arrested

ROME (AP) — A man dressed as a nun gave one the right to see like an animal.

An Italian lawyer boasted that the hard way after security guards at Manila Zoo arrested him and turned him over to the police on lewdness allegations.

The owner Dopong himself in flow girls aged between 9 and 12 who promptly ran off and told their parents about him.

Another 46 in March, 26, now faces a charge of repeat sexual assault in relation to Republic Act No. 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Act at the city prosecutor's office.

According to the girls, they were standing near the swimming pool at the Manila Zoo when Dr. Jesus approached them and asked for directions to the toilet. He then pulled out his organ and urinated in front of them. After word, he went to the pool where he again exposed himself to the young girls, Antonietta Lindbeck and Adliane de Jesus, 9, who

Makati teachers ready for K-12 program

TEACHERS assigned to Makati City have been undergoing professional training to enable them to implement the new curriculum of the Department of Education's (DepEd) K-12 program.

In a statement, DepEd Makati officer in charge Priscilla de Sagun said the teachers in charge of Grades 1 to 7 had received training on the K-12 curriculum now for the opening of classes next week.

"The K-12 program hopes to decongest the curriculum by spending lessons over 12 years instead of cramming them into 10. It is expected to fill in the deficiencies and strengthen the students' competencies in core subjects such as English, Math and Science," she said.

The program adds two more years to the current 10-year basic education system with secondary education divided into junior high school consists of four years, and senior high school will last for two years. Abbie Mendez

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Cardinal behind 'Vatileaks,' say media

ROME—An unnamed cardinal is suspected of being a leading mole behind a series of embarrassing leaks of confidential papal documents, the Italian media reported on Monday.

"A cardinal 'fed the crow,'" read the headline in Il Messaggero, referring to Pope Benedict XVI's personal butler Paolo Gabriele who was arrested last week in the "Vatileaks" scandal after secret papers were found in his home.

"The real brains are the cardinals. Then there are the messengers, secretaries and smaller fry," according to one source quoted by La Repubblica.

Gabriele, who has insisted at the Vatican since 2006 and was one of a select few with access to the Pope's private quarters, was arrested a month after the Pope set up a special commission of cardinals to probe the leaks.

The documents, splashed in the Italian press and in a book, have shed light on many Vatican secrets, including the Church's tax problems, the handing of Catholic bodies, child sex scandals and negotiations with hard-line traditionalist rebels.

Although they do not reveal any great surprises, the secret papers have lifted the lid on deep-seated tensions among rival figures in the Vatican.

Gabriele's arrest was greeted with disbelief in the 46-year-old man known for his devotion and loyalty to the Pope and there has been speculation he was simply a pawn in a game of intrigue and struggle for power inside the Holy See.

One source quoted by La Repubblica said the mole behind the leaks had acted in support of the Pope "because the goal was to reveal the corruption within the Church over the past few years".

"There are those who oppose Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone, those who think Benedict XVI is too weak to lead the Church and those who think this is the right time to move forward," the source said.

The source also said the Pope was deeply affected by the sacking last week of Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, president of Opus Dei's scandal-ridden bank.

Following a spate of financial scandals.

"He [the Pope] began to cry and then he became angry and swears that the roots will come out," the source said.

Gerry Tedeschi was ousted on Thursday after an ecclesiastic vote over his failure to clean up the image of the bank and has also been named as a possible source of leaked documents about the institution. AFP

UN Council condemns Syria over massacre

BEIRUT—The UN Security Council on Saturday unanimously condemned the Syrian government for its role in the massacre of at least 108 villagers, with new details emerging from international observers that appeared to confirm Western cooperation in rendering its ally to themselves.

The 15-member Council approved a statement that, while not blaming the Syrian government directly for all the deaths, rebuked it for its use of tanks and artillery against civilians despite agreeing to an April 12 ceasefire.

"The ceasefire is dead—it is not existing," Peace Minister Hervé Ladsous told reporters after the emergency meeting. "There is a clear governance blueprint to those killings."

Syrian government artillery not only violated the ceasefire engineered under UN auspices, he said, but also jeopardizes any other peace initiative.

The United Nations says at least 108 people, including 49 children and 34 women, died in Friday's attacks in the area of Houla, a collection of Sunni villages 15 miles northwest of the central city of Homs. Villagers said the UN monitors there at least some of the killings had been committed by "shabiha," or government thugs, at close range—whose corpses tend to be disturbed, the same minority sect that includes President Bashar al-Assad.

The council's statement is sure to be a factor in efforts by a former UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, to begin negotiating with the government Monday on carrying out the six-point peace plan that he negotiated and is spearheading.

But Assad has repeatedly shown himself to be impervious to international pressure. A string of international leaders have criticized Assad for making promises like supporting the ceasefire, and then continuing his attempt to put down the uprising by force. Indeed, there were reports of another case of Syrian shelling of civilians on Sunday, this time in Hama, a center of resistance where activists said dozens had been killed in new attacks. The denials could not be confirmed.

Some Syrian opposition figures have criticized Western efforts to push the ceasefire when it was so clear that the government held it in contempt, and a few threatened resignation against Ahtisaari.

The latest also reverberated in partisan politics in the United States, with Mitt Romney, the presumed Republican presidential candidate, calling the massacre "horrific" and criticizing President Barack Obama for handling the Annan plan.

"The Annan 'peace' plan—which President Obama still supports—has merely granted the Assad regime more time to execute its military onslaught," the Romney statement said. "The United States should work with partners to organize and arm Syrian opposition groups so they can defend themselves."

Russia has typically rejected any intervention efforts to support the opposition in a way that might repeat the Nato military intervention in Libya, and despite strong statements, the West has avoided getting further embroiled in the Syria fighting out of fear of the long-term consequences. On Sunday, the council statement said that the "outrageous use of force" against civilians violated international law and economic sanctions the Syrian government had under the plan to stop using its heavy weapons in populated areas. It demanded that the Syrian government cease using heavy weapons immediately and pull its troops out of cities and towns. It also asked the UN observer mission in Syria to continue investigating the Houla attacks.

An earlier draft of the statement had more directly blamed the Syrian government for the massacre, but the Russians balked. WITH

A CITIZEN journalism image purports to show a dead child following a Syrian government assault on Houla, Syria. —

Obama to honor fallen troops on Memorial Day

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama is paying tribute to the nation's fallen warriors on Memorial Day, presiding at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and honoring those who died during the Vietnam War.

The president was in pastoral pose in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery Monday, and then marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Republican Party challenger Mitt Romney was scheduled to appear in San Diego, home to a large number of military personnel and veterans. Romney has made the case that too many veterans are returning home to poor job prospects, casting blame on Obama's economic policies.

A Bureau of Labor Statistics report in March found that 12.1 percent of all post-9/11 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who served on active duty after September 2001 were unemployed in 2011. The unemployment rate for all veterans was 8.3 percent.

Several closely watched indicators in the economy have large blocs of military workers. Florida, home to several military installations, has more than 1.6 million veterans, according to the Veterans Administration. Pennsylvania has nearly 1 million veterans, while Virginia and North Carolina each have about 800,000 veterans living in their states. AP

Blair faces grilling over ties to Murdoch

BLAIR

LONDON—Tony Blair's decision to repeatedly court Rupert Murdoch to win power and secure favorable coverage during his decade-long tenure as British prime minister will come under scrutiny when he faces a media inquiry on Monday.

The inquiry, ordered by Prime Minister David Cameron after Murdoch's now defunct News of the World tabloid admitted hacking phones, has unshed Britain's elite by laying bare the collusion between politicians, the police and the media.

Blair kicks off an important week at the Leveson inquiry by answering questions about his often obsessive media management which included courting Murdoch.

The inquiry has so far heard on the conduct of the media and the close ties between Murdoch's empire and serving ministers, helping the opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband consolidate his position with attacks on Cameron.

But the grilling of Blair, who swept the relationship between the media and politicians to gain the most favorable coverage, could undermine Miliband's attempt to portray Labour as a party above courting media tycoons.

While Blair is no longer active in British politics, the inquiry may well pose uncomfortable as it examines issues such as his decision after stepping down as prime minister to become a godfather to Murdoch's daughter Grace at a ceremony on the banks of the river Jordan.

Blair led the way in having no shame about courting Murdoch," said Tom Gabel, professor of political journalism at City University.

"He set the style and the standard and if you regard Cameron as the heir to Blair then it's not exactly surprising that he followed suit."

Murdoch told the inquiry last month that he had never asked a politician minister for anything.

Blair set the tone for his relationship with Britain's press when he flew to Australia in 1995 to speak before a gathering of Murdoch's executives who had previously used their British tabloids to vilify his Labour Party predecessors.

The decision infuriated much of his left-of-center party who saw the Australian-born tycoon as a right-winger who had helped to keep them out of power for years. Reuters

2 Tibetans torch selves to protest China rule

BEIJING—Two men engulfed themselves in towering flames outside a temple that is a popular tourist site in Lhasa, marking the first time a record seven self-immolations to protest Chinese rule has reached the tightly guarded Tibetan capital.

One of the men died and the other was hospitalized after they set themselves on fire Sunday outside the Jokhang Temple, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The report quoted a local Communist Party official as blaming the incident on separatist forces.

Xinhua said the men were taken away by authorities without any comment of setting themselves on fire.

Protests have become rare in remote Tibet and Lhasa is particularly tense because of tight police security that has blanketed the area since nationwide unrest erupted in Lhasa in 2008.

There have been at least 34 immolations since Buddhist monk set himself ablaze in March last year to draw attention to China's restrictions on Buddhism and to call for the return from exile of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. Most have taken place in heavily Tibetan areas of China, but only three have occurred in Tibet itself and none in the capital.

Chinese authorities have confirmed some of the self-immolations over the past year but not all.

The term immolations in the heart of Tibetan capital are certain to embarrass the region's communist leadership, who have pledged to make social stability and ethnic unity top priorities. That mandate is especially pressing this year as China prepares for a once-a-decade leadership transition in the fall and doesn't want the situation underwritten.

The immolations are also likely to prompt tough, new restrictions on Tibetan social gatherings and religious activities in Lhasa, as they have elsewhere.

Radio Free Asia reported on Monday that Lhasa was under heavy police and paramilitary guard following the immolations and that the situation was very tense.

Two foreigners working in the Lhasa tourism industry reached Monday declined to comment on the situation, citing the sensitivity of the issue.

The incident occurred in the open-air Barkhor market near the temple in the center of Lhasa, a site popular with Tibetan pilgrims and tourists alike.

Xinhua said the immolations were handled quickly and order was restored. It also quoted a senior official with the regional government as saying it was a separatist incident.

"They were a continuation of the self-immolations in other Tibetan areas and these acts were all aimed at separating Tibet from China," Xinhua quoted Xiao Peng, secretary of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Tibet Committee, as saying in a statement Sunday. AP

Afghan family reported killed by air strike

KABUL, Afghanistan—Both President Hamid Karzai and Nato commanders ordered an investigation on Sunday into reports that a family of eight had been killed in a coalition airstrike in eastern Afghanistan.

Nato and Afghan provincial government officials gave somewhat divergent accounts of the episodes. The casualties took place in eastern Paktia province Saturday night when the family's home was hit by a bomb, said Rohullah Samoon, a spokesperson for the governor of Paktia. Six children were killed, four boys and two girls, as well as their mother and father, whose name was Sadullah. They lived in the Bisha village in the remote Gardi Sari district, he said, adding that the circumstances of the bombing were not clear but that the operation was carried out without coordination with Afghan security forces.

However, a spokesperson for the Afghan National Army in Paktia, Col. Rauf Ehsan, said that it was a joint operation to target insurgent fighters from the Haqqani faction who operate there. Sar Khlis is a remote, mountainous area on the border between Paktia and Khost province and is dominated by the Zadran tribe, which is the same tribe as the Haqqani clan.

The Haqqanis, the insurgent group dominant in southeastern Afghanistan, are believed to be behind some of the bloodiest and most audacious attacks that have taken place in Afghanistan in the past three years, including the attack 10 hour long attack on the US Embassy in September and many events multiple attacks in Kabul in April that targeted the embassy neighborhood as well as the Parliament and an area near a Nato camp.

According to the Nato account, on Saturday evening a combined State and Afghan force on a ground patrol came under heavy attack by more than 20 insurgents, said Maj. Sharyn Crighton, a spokesperson for the State-led International Security Assistance Force. "They were attacked by a large group of insurgents in southern Paktia and they returned fire and requested close air support and received it," he said. "We are trying to determine whether the mission has any direct correlation to the claims of civilian casualties."

Although no State soldiers were killed in the fighting in Paktia, seven coalition soldiers were killed over the weekend in different episodes in southern and eastern Afghanistan, according to a Nato spokesperson. The nationalities of the soldiers were not released pending the notification of family members.

On Saturday four coalition soldiers were killed in three roadside bombings in southern Afghanistan, Nato said on Sunday. Two of the soldiers were killed in one of the explosions, and five other two died in separate episodes. WITH

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Majority in US favor gay marriage, but not voters

NEW YORK—Poll after poll shows public support for same-sex marriage steadily increasing in the US, to the point where it's now a majority viewpoint. Yet in all 32 states where gay marriage has been on the ballot, voters have rejected it.

It's possible the streak could end in November, when Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington state are likely to have closely scrutinized gay marriage measures on their ballots.

But now, however, there remains a gap between the national polling results and the way states have voted. It's a paradox with multiple explanations, from political geographies to the likelihood that some surveyed voters tell pollsters one thing and then vote differently.

"It's not that people are lying. It's an intensely emotional issue," said Amy Simon, a pollster based in Oakland, California. "People can report to you how they feel at the moment they're answering the poll, but they can change their mind."

California experienced that phenomenon in November 2008, when voters, by a 52 percent to 48 percent margin, approved a ban on same-sex marriage in the state constitution. A statewide field poll that September indicated Proposition 8 would lose decisively; an updated poll a week before the vote still showed it trailing by 5 percentage points.

California is an unusual case. It's one of a few reliably Democratic states that have had a statewide vote rebuffing same-sex marriage. The vast majority of the referendums have been in more conservative states, which have a greater proliferation for using ballot measures to set social policy. The 32 states that have rejected gay marriage at the polls make up just over 40 percent of the US population.

Many in liberal states such as Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, where gay marriage was legalized by judges or legislators, might vote to affirm those decisions but haven't had the opportunity.

Most of the states that voted against gay marriage did so between 2004 and 2008. Since then, only Maine in 2009 and North Carolina on May 8 have rebuffed same-sex marriage in referendums, while legislatures in Washington state, Maryland, New Jersey, Hawaii, New York, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Illinois and Delaware have voted for same-sex marriage or civil unions.

In all, there are now six states with legal same-sex marriage and nine more granting gay and lesbian couples broad marriage-style rights via civil unions or domestic partnerships. Together, those 15 states account for about 31 percent of the US population.

Over the past year, there's been a stream of major national polls indicating that a majority of people support same-sex marriage. According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll released on Wednesday, 53 percent of those questioned say gay marriage should be legal, a new high for the poll, while 39 percent, a new low, say it should be illegal.

Political consultant Frank Schubert, a leading strategist for campaigns against same-sex marriage in California and elsewhere, said such polls are misleading and he asserted that same-sex marriage would be rejected if a national referendum were held now.

"The pollsters are asking if same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal, and that phrasing is problematic because it implies some government sanction against same-sex couples," Schubert said. "People want to be sympathetic to same-sex couples, so polls that use that language aren't particularly useful."

The most useful question, Schubert said, is whether marriage should be defined as the union of a man and a woman—the gist of the constitutional amendments approved in 30 states.

"If you ask that question, you get strong majorities," Schubert said. AP

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BUSINESS

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INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
43.540

STOCK MARKET
26.8

P299.8B to settle principal, interest on local, foreign loans

By Reena FM. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT spent P299.81 billion in the four months ending April to pay its debts, down 14 percent from the P350.29 billion in obligations settled a year ago, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The amount spent to debt servicing continues to be lower compared to the previous year's as payments for principal debt fell in the first four months.

From January to April, the government settled a total of P165.19 billion in principal, including P146.36 billion in domestic debt and P18.83 billion in foreign loans.

Total principal payments in the four months was 23 percent lower than the P248.14 billion posted

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$1-B stock rights offering of BDO gets bourse nod

Move to support bank growth, expansion

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BDO Unibank Inc. has received the go-ahead for its $1-billion stock rights offering as the company bolsters its capital base in preparation for its aggressive expansion.

In a statement, the country's leading lender said the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) approved its plan to raise tier 1 capital through a rights offering for stockholders owning common shares. The rights offering was approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) last May 11.

"The capital raising is intended to support the growth and expansion of the bank amid the positive sentiments on the economy and, at the same time strengthen the bank's capital position in anticipation of new Basel III requirements," BDO chair Teresita T. Sy said in a statement to the local bourse.

The company said the additional capital would give it a substantial buffer on top of the new minimum capital adequacy ratio requirement.

"The bank is optimistic about the outlook on the Philippine economy, driven by a strong consumer sector and opportunities in the SME (small to medium enterprises), middle market and large corporate sectors," the bank said.

Citi, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan were appointed as the transaction's joint international lead managers and underwriters. United Overseas Bank Ltd. was appointed international co-lead manager and international co-lead underwriter, while BDO Capital and Investment Corp. was named to-one manager and domestic underwriter.

The offer will be made available to eligible stockholders as of June 14, on a discount to the volume of the weighted average price of the bank's common shares listed on the PSE for a period to be determined before 30th day next week.

The final terms of the offer, including price and ratio, will be determined by BDO in consultation with the international co-managers. The offer period will be from June 18 to June 27.

Ever since the BSP announced the implementation of Basel III requirements at the start of the year, the country's biggest banks have lasted plans to beef up their capital as early compliance. The amount of money set aside by banks as buffer for risk-weighted assets—measured as a bank's capital adequacy ratio—will be raised to 12.5 percent from the current 10 percent under Basel II regulations.

A bank's capital must be composed more of tier 1—mainly common equity and of a higher quality than other types of capital, such as those raised from a bond sale. In particular, tier 1 capital requirements in the Philippines has been set at 7.5 percent, which is actually higher than the 4.5 percent prescribed under Basel III.

Another bad week

MARKET RIDER

Dave Ismerio

YOU read it right. My article today has the same title as my column last week because the market may continue to perform badly—and we may have "another bad week."

Actually, if you compare the performance of the market last week and the week before, the title of my article last week has not been perfectly reflective of the market's trend. The market last week was not up, in fact.

To recall, when the market closed at 4,879.42 last May 18, it was down 278.72 points or 5.4 percent on a weekly basis. Compared to last week's close at 4,980.97, the market has recovered and was only up 46.55 points or 0.94 percent from the previous week.

The same is true on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average index (DJIA) closed two weeks ago on May 18 at 12,565.56. It was down 451.32 points or 3.52 percent lower from its close this previous week. Last week, the Dow slightly recovered. It was up 95.45 points or 0.76 percent when it closed on Friday at 12,494.83.

The Standard & Poor 500 index (S&P 500) likewise had a similar pattern of performance in the last two weeks. On May 18, it was down 38.67 points or 4.34 percent or 1,295.21 compared to the prior week's close of 1,353.88. But when it closed for the week last Friday the S&P 500 was slightly higher by 23.68 points or 1.74 percent at 1,317.83.

But what's you look further back in time, like since the beginning of the month, the market mood, including Wall Street's, had been in a downward spin. It was broken only by the small jump upswing last week—an upward movement that has yet to be further confirmed if it is no longer part of the market's general trend.

Based on the principles of technical analysis, the general direction of market prices may be interrupted from time to time, be it a climb or advancing market, market prices may experience temporary weakness from their upward movement. Such interruptions are called "pullbacks." A "pullback" is but the falling of market prices from their peaks. When the fall is equivalent to as much as 38 percent, it is called a "correction." The "pullback" or "correction" is bad because it is only a temporary pause from the general upward movement of market prices. As such, they are seen as buying opportunities.

A pullback, however, can also transform into a definite trend reversal. It doesn't need to go past the stages of a "correction" before it goes into an irreversible trend. It takes some experience to be able to read it. This is the reason why stock trading is oftentimes difficult.

The same principle applies to a bear or retreating market. The general downward movement of market prices is also interrupted by what is called a "rally" or, more precisely a "technical rally." Lastly, a market "rally" can run into some sustained periods unlike a market "correction" or "pullback."

BDO election results

It may have been also a bad week for my banks from Steinbudt last week. And, with the results of the stockholders' meeting at Nido Petroleum Ltd. (NIDO) last Friday, May 25, it may well be "another bad week" for him this week. His bank is a stockholder of one of the company's available board seats.

Earlier, he gave me a very interesting message for my article confirming the market with the "go-go swarm" and "frowned looking" statements made about the oil and gas personality of Service Contract (SC) 72 located at the Reed Bank (another provocative claimed by China along with the Scarborough or Panatag shoal).

According to him, it is for the same reason that he is moving for a board seat at NIDO. This is to precisely capture the group's investibility profile and rebuild shareholders' confidence in the company owing to some "subsequent failure to achieve results" associated by management that had result in worse like loss suffer. The market price of NIDO shares have considerably fallen due to those "overly optimistic" acts.

It's a pity, he missed the cut. As reported by the corporate secretary of NIDO, there were 40,025,189 proxy votes in favor of his election into the position and there were about 13,629,638.11 proxy votes against his election.

There were 31,074,328 proxy votes specifically instructed to abstain or not to participate in the "resolution" on they were at pertaining to his election. Also, there were 16,982,772 proxy votes uncontrasted, which could be very well used for this.

Obviously, he did not have a chance from the outset. This is even if you would include all the uncontrasted proxy votes of 16,982,772 to his favor. It's only about 63.31 percent of the number of proxy votes against him already.

Management seemed to have worked very hard against him this year, following the removal of the power of the nomination and nomination committee and its additional power to engage the services of an outside consultant to evaluate the abilities or qualifications of a candidate seeking a seat in the company's board of directors.

He was able to muster only a total of 55,646,000 votes in his favor while there was a total of 172,750,140 votes cast against him. The total number of votes that abstained or did not participate specifically in his election even slightly went up. It increased by 20 votes for a total of 31,188,325 votes.

The present management of NIDO got what they wanted. However, this thing possibly can go beyond into years. The one single biggest stockholder, who happens to be a Filipino investor, is strongly pushing more personality and take the helm of operating the company now with the help of supporters.

Bottoms line spin

Going back to the status of the market, the market's upward trend could just be purely technical or what is called a "technical rally" to the benchmark index fingered within the 5,000 level last week, some bargain hunting always seems to happen. This specially happened when the market fell lower by about 300 to 500 points.

The reason why I was bullish of the market is that it has been driven by the same two major factors that had bogged the market in the last two weeks. Moreover, these two factors have alternately pushed up or down the market's direction. These are the data from reports on the state of the US economy and by the looming possibility of a Greek exit from the euro zone and the eventual problem it may cause to the world financial system.

With both major factors still hanging on the balance, this week may again be "another bad week."

The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Eagle Equities Inc. You may email the market desk at marketdesk@inquirer.com.ph, dismismore@msn.com or at www.bgstudiol.com.

Debt

From page B1

a year ago.

Also, the government paid a total of P1.043 billion in interest, covering P66.88 billion in bond debts and P47.71 billion in foreign exchange.

Total interest payment for the period was 12 percent higher than the P932.15 billion recorded in the same period of 2011.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said earlier this month that interest payments as of April have already shot to higher than one-fifth of full-year treasury bills and retail treasury bonds in view of the bigger deficit financing requirement for this year.

Treasury data showed that the biggest contributor to new debts incurred from January to April were the issuance of P179.8 billion in RTBs and P121.26 billion in regular domestic bonds.

Local stocks rebound as Europe fears ease

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCAL share prices rose yesterday—building on the strength of a technical rebound at the end of last week—as fears that Greece would leave the Eurozone eased.

The benchmark Philippine stock exchange index (PSEi) gained 0.51 percent or 26.6 points to close at 4,952.74 points, with all sub-indices ending the day in the green.

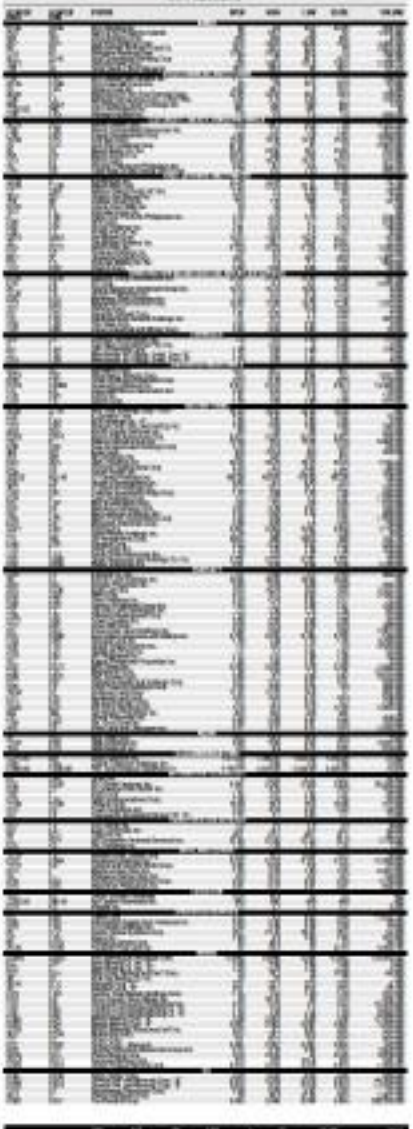
Last Friday, the index ended losing by 0.05 percent to close at 4,926.97 on Friday, marking a technical rebound from the previous week's decline.

More than 800 million shares changed hands at P4.07 billion. The day's 62 advancers outnumbered the 62 decliners, while 46 issues were unchanged.

Brokerage firm 2TradeAsia is a weekly outer said local share prices would be boosted "on hopes that the Euro zone's debt woes would eventually be resolved."

"Officials from Germany and France signalled their intention to assist Greece in the bloc," the forecast.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



CURRENCIES

May 29, 2012 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Bank Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australia	Dollar	41.3000	41.0000	41.1500
Japan	Yen	0.5000	0.4900	0.4950
United Kingdom	Pound	71.0000	70.6000	70.8000
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.3000	7.2800	7.2900
Switzerland	Franc	49.0000	48.8000	48.9000
Canada	Dollar	41.7500	41.6000	41.6750
Singapore	Dollar	32.0000	31.9000	31.9500
Denmark	Krone	7.5000	7.4800	7.4900
Europe	Euro	52.0000	51.8000	51.9000
Kuwait	Dinar	179.0000	178.5000	178.7500
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	14.6000	14.5500	14.5750
Sweden	Krona	6.0000	5.9800	5.9900
Australia	Dollar	41.3000	41.0000	41.1500
Thailand	Baht	1.3000	1.2900	1.2950
UAE	Dirham	14.6000	14.5500	14.5750
Taiwan	Dollar	1.7000	1.6900	1.6950
China	Yuan	7.8000	7.7800	7.7900
Norway	Krone	6.2000	6.1800	6.1900
Qatar	Riyal	14.6000	14.5500	14.5750
Bahrain	Dinar	194.0000	193.5000	193.7500
Malaysia	Ringgit	13.0000	12.9500	12.9750
Oman	Rial	190.0000	189.5000	189.7500
Korea	Won	0.0450	0.0440	0.0445
Vietnam	Dong	0.0025	0.0024	0.0025
Brunei	Dollar	32.0000	31.9000	31.9500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0055	0.0054	0.0055
Kazakhstan	Tenge	0.2700	0.2690	0.2695
Macau	Pataca	7.3000	7.2800	7.2900
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	14.6000	14.5500	14.5750
Turkey	Lira	25.0000	24.9000	24.9500
Iceland	Krona	0.4200	0.4180	0.4190
Russia	Ruble	1.5000	1.4900	1.4950
Mexico	Peso	3.8000	3.7900	3.7950
Peru	Nuevo Sol	17.0000	16.9500	16.9750
Chile	Peso	0.0980	0.0975	0.0978
Colombia	Peso	0.0260	0.0258	0.0259
Argentina	Peso	10.0000	9.9500	9.9750
Jamaica	Dollar	0.5800	0.5750	0.5775
Panama	Balboa	49.0000	48.8000	48.9000
Uruguay	Peso	2.4000	2.3900	2.3950
Venezuela	Bolivar	11.4000	11.3500	11.3750
Dominican Republic	Peso	1.2000	1.1950	1.1975
Egypt	Pound	8.0000	7.9500	7.9750
Nigeria	Naira	0.3100	0.3080	0.3090
Pakistan	Rupee	0.5200	0.5180	0.5190
Sri Lanka	Rupee	0.3800	0.3780	0.3790
Ukraine	Hryvnia	6.1000	6.0800	6.0900
Hungary	Forint	0.2200	0.2190	0.2195
Poland	Zloty	14.0000	13.9500	13.9750
Czech Republic	Koruna	2.5000	2.4900	2.4950
Romania	Leu	12.0000	11.9500	11.9750
Bulgaria	Lev	30.0000	29.9000	29.9500
Serbia	Dinar	0.5000	0.4980	0.4990
Croatia	Kuna	7.0000	6.9800	6.9900
Slovenia	Tolar	0.2200	0.2190	0.2195
Slovakia	Koruna	1.7000	1.6900	1.6950
Estonia	Kroon	3.4000	3.3900	3.3950
Latvia	Lat	70.0000	69.8000	69.9000
Lithuania	Litas	14.0000	13.9500	13.9750
Malta	Lira	114.0000	113.5000	113.7500
Cyprus	Pound	85.0000	84.8000	84.9000
Slovakia	Koruna	1.7000	1.6900	1.6950
Estonia	Kroon	3.4000	3.3900	3.3950
Latvia	Lat	70.0000	69.8000	69.9000
Lithuania	Litas	14.0000	13.9500	13.9750
Malta	Lira	114.0000	113.5000	113.7500
Cyprus	Pound	85.0000	84.8000	84.9000

First Gen gets ₱1.8B from parent firm

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOPEZ-LED First Gen Corp. has received an additional ₱1.8 billion investment from its parent firm as the company raises cash for the expansion of its subsidiaries' operations.

In a disclosure, First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) said the additional cash represented payment for the 33.75 million series "G" preferred shares of First Gen acquired earlier this month.

"The additional investment is by way of FPHC's payment of the difference between the same price it previously paid, or ₱54 per share, and the issue price of the publicly offered shares of ₱108 per share, for 20 million Series 'G' shares," FPHC said in a disclosure.

Earlier this month, First Gen issued 100 million series "G" shares, worth as much as ₱10.8 billion. The cumulative, nonparticipating, nonconvertible, nonredeemable perpetual preferred shares "G" shares were listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange on May 16.

"With this additional investment, FPHC's 20 million Series 'G' shares will now be able to enjoy the same rights and benefits as the holders of the 100 million Series 'G' shares," the company said.

First Gen earlier said it was looking at euro options on how to use the funds raised through the issuance. One was to use the funds, or ₱5.5 billion, to fund the company's acquisitions this year, which may be undertaken directly or indirectly by any of its affiliates and subsidiaries.

First Gen may include the acquisition of the 40 percent stake of the British Gas (BG) Group in the two natural gas-fired power plants in Batangas, which First Gen co-owns and operates.

First Gen still owns 60 percent of First Gas Holdings, the parent company of First Gas Power, while the remaining 40 percent is held by the BG Group.

Should the opportunity arise, the company is prepared to acquire the 40 percent stake of the BG Group as it intends to earmark for this purpose the proceeds of the issuance of preferred shares.

Another option is to earmark ₱5.7 billion for the redemption of its seven-year bonds and offset ₱5.8 billion to make a partial payment of the debt of its affiliate, SunPower.

Puregold buys Parco chain

Firm's outlets rose to 131

By Dayrit L. Lucas

SUPERMARKET chain Puregold Price Club Inc. yesterday said that it had acquired all the stores of the Lost Group of Companies, which operates smaller retail rival Parco supermarkets.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Puregold said it had bought all of Parco's 19 operating outlets by purchasing all of the outstanding shares of stock of the chain.

The listed supermarket chain...cursed by business man Lucio Co—did not reveal the exact acquisition price, saying only that it was worth "less than 10 percent of the book value of Puregold" as of the end of the first quarter of this year.

The acquisition would be paid in cash from Puregold's internally generated funds, it said in the statement.

As the end of 2011, Puregold's stockholders' equity, which is an approximation of a firm's book value, stood at ₱9.3 billion, indicating that the acquisition price would be in the vicinity of ₱930 million.

Parco's three stores are located in Metro Manila, with three other stores located south of Metro Manila and four more in the south.

"The acquisition transaction involving the 19 Parco supermarkets closely came after the approval by the stockholders on May 16, 2012 of the acquisition of 100 percent equity interests of the sellers in Barrida Management Corp., operator of the B&B warehouse membership shopping clubs in six locations in Metro Manila, Pampanga and Cebu," the company said.

With the two acquisitions, Puregold now operates a total of 131 outlets, broken down into 106 Puregold stores, 19 Parco supermarkets and six S&R membership shopping clubs.

In terms of geographic locations, 71 of the 131 stores are in Metro Manila, 22 stores north of Metro Manila, 37 stores south of Metro Manila and one store in the Visayas.

"The acquisition of the 19 Parco supermarkets is expected to be closed within May," the company added.

In the meantime, Puregold expects to finalize the payment for the acquisition of the S&R warehouse membership shopping chain by the end of June 2012, it added.

Electronics imports seen to remain low

By Rose T. Delfinado

ELECTRONICS imports are expected to remain lower this year-ago levels until May this year, the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI) said.

The National Statistics Office reported last week a 3.8.7 percent contraction in electronics imports in March this year to $1.529 billion from $2.054 billion in March 2011.

SEIPI president Ernesto R. Santiago said in a phone interview that imports recorded in March, April and May 2011 would not likely be replicated in the corresponding months this year.

Santiago said electronics imports in those three months last year were higher than usual because manufacturers stocked up on parts and supplies following the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan's Tohoku region in March 2011.

The SEIPI disputed Friday that total imports in March fell 3.3 percent to $1.571 billion from $1.503 billion a year ago. In February imports rose by 2.3 percent.

Month-on-month imports increased 7.5 percent from $1.996 billion in February. Imports for the first three months of the year were down by 5.3 percent to $5.004 billion from $5.288 billion a year ago.

Cid L. Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific said his text message that the decline, although minimal, was surprising. "I believe the figures will improve after the first half. The export and import forecasts are still attainable. The world economy and world trade are still with better prospects after the first half," he said.

Topping the list of the March imports were mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials which amounted to $1.340 billion and registered the highest annual growth rate of 94.6 percent.

Electronics came second with $1.255 billion, down 38.7 percent from $2.054 billion in March 2011. Semiconductors had the biggest share of electronics imports, decreasing by 47.1 percent to $928.59 million from $1.755 billion.

FDC plans ₱25-B investment in power projects

GUTIERREZ-led Filinvest Development Corp. plans to invest about ₱25 billion in power generation facilities that will have a combined capacity of 300 megawatts.

FDC plans to start construction of the plants this year.

FDC is also interested in entering power assets of the government-run state-owned firm.

"We are also interested in existing power assets of the government-run state-owned firm privatization, particularly Unified Leyte Geothermal (ULGI MW), Calaoyan Bolocaan Hydropower hydropower facilities (720 MW), Malaya thermal power plant (300 MW) and Casecnan power project (140+ MW)," company officials said.

For the new plants planned by the company, commercial operations are expected to start in about two to three years, FDC chair Jonathan Gotianun told reporters.

Instead of using liquefied natural gas (LNG) for its upcoming power plants or earlier announced, FDC has opted to use mineral clean coal and renewable energy.

During its stockholders meeting last year, FDC announced plans to develop four LNG power plants with a total capacity of 1,000 to 1,400 MW over a five-year period.

FDC president Josephine Gotianun Yap, however, said the group had dubbed the strategy pending the completion of a government energy plan by DOE.

Yap said the group's bidding firm for utilities projects, FDC Utilities Inc., had so far successfully signed bilateral supply contracts amounting to more than 70 MW. She said this unit was pursuing power generation projects in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with a combined capacity of 300 MW.

FDC Utilities president Jesus Alcordo said his unit was targeting to sign up to 200 MW of additional power generation capacity this year. The unit has prospective projects in Camarines Sur, Davao, Cebu, Negros and Mindanao.

At the same time, Alcordo said the group would consider privatization of the government power generation assets that were scheduled for privatization. Enrico C. Quintos

BTr rejects bids for 91-day T-bill

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday rejected all tenders for the 91-day treasury bill while results for the other two issues were mixed although minimal.

The yield on the 182-day T-bill went up by 4.2 basis points to an average of 2.2 percent but those for the 364-day T-bill were down by 1.8 basis points to 2.5 percent.

Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said in an interview that the submitted bids hinted of differing opinions among investors.

"I guess there's no settled view on what rates on the 91-day bill should be," Tan said. "Bids for the 182-day and 364-day bills were quite reasonable."

He said investors, very like their bids might be rejected given the rates they were asking, did not make available "more meaningful" amount of funds.

The treasurer was referring to the amount tendered for the benchmark bill, which equaled the government's offer of ₱5 billion. The 91-day bill is usually oversubscribed by at least twice.

And the government awarded in offer only the twenty benchmark two-week issues previously ₱3.7 basis points to 2.011 percent.

That would have been 66.1 basis points higher than the corresponding 2.345 percent in the secondary market.

Also, yesterday's results for the six-month debt paper went 0.5 basis points higher than the corresponding 2.207 percent in the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

Results for the year-long paper were 25 basis points lower than the average rate in the secondary market.

Both the 182-day and 364-day bills were oversubscribed but tenders were less than twice the offer. Investors made available ₱13.39 billion for the ₱12 billion offer of six-month bills and ₱6.86 billion for the ₱5.5 billion offer for the year-long bill.

Overall, buyers made available ₱19.36 billion for the three issues, more than the total offer of ₱17.5 billion.

Sun Cellular posts strong growth in postpaid, mobile broadband in Q1

Mobile phone operator Sun Cellular posted strong gains in its postpaid cellular and mobile broadband businesses in the first quarter of this year.

Postpaid cellular net service revenues rose by 20.81% in Php1.08 compared with Php1.293 for the same period last year. The number of postpaid subscribers also jumped by 26% to 1.411 million.

Sun Cellular officials attributed the double-digit growth to consumers' positive take-up of Sun's best value postpaid offerings like the Call and Surf Plan 450 as well as the best-selling Plan 350 and Group Plan 999 which are all bundled with the latest handsets available in the market.

They added that the Sun's awesome broadband business also registered robust growth. Wireless broadband subscribers increased to almost 600,000 at the end of March this year, up by 61.30% from last year.

"We are very happy with the support the public has been giving us over the years and this motivates us to come up with even better postpaid plan offerings in the coming months" said Ricky Pena, Sun Cellular Senior Vice President for Postpaid Marketing and New Business.

"Now that we have teamed up with our counterparts in the PLDT Group, our subscribers are now starting to benefit from more expressed services and better value offerings," Pena added.

Apart from the segment's flagship services, Pena also attributed the growth of Sun Cellular's postpaid business to the Add-On mobile services that they offered in the form of prepaid services particularly the Add-Bill Shock Add-On Plans which is the smartest as an innovative that addresses subscribers' need for flexibility.

"The success of the Add-On plans only shows the strength of the Sun Postpaid community and that consumers continue to recognize that are still offer the best value plans in the market," Pena explained.

Last year, PLDT acquired Sun Cellular from the JG Summit conglomerate and committed to continue offering the mobile firm's signature unlimited service packages.

"Now we are making it easier for the combined 07 million subscribers of the Smart and Sun Cellular networks to communicate with each other," Pena added.

Recently, Sun Cellular launched "Text" network offers that allow Sun subscribers to get in touch with their contacts from the Smart and Talk 'Text' Networks via Short-Word Messaging Service (SMS) and voice telephones. Add-on Plans, and even prepaid bucket loads.

"As we continue to explore synergies with our sister companies in the PLDT Group the public can expect even more value-packed postpaid offerings even as we continue to develop even better plans for our regular and broadband postpaid customers," Pena concluded.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

APPLIANCE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BONDS/TOURISM

AVEDA D'FORT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR/VAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX

PUBLIC NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE SECRETARY SALES PERSONNEL

CALL POEA

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE
CY 2012 SEFF

1. The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through the CY 12 SEFF School Furniture Program intends to apply the sum of PHP 1,248,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery (Electric Model of School Furniture for various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Bids received in excess of the ABC per Lot shall be automatically rejected and not opening.

2. The DepED Division of Cebu Province now invites bids for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Delivery of the Goods is required Sixty (60) Calendar Days per lot. Bidders should have completed, within Five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section 3, Instruction to Bidders.

Lot Number	Schools	Quantity (pc) Chairs	Quantity (pc) Desk	Teacher's Table & Chair (unit)	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration
1 (Lot 1 All Districts)		1,100	1,100	10	PHP 1,248,000.00	60 C.D.
2 (2nd District)		1,320	1,440	20	PHP 1,242,000.00	60 C.D.
3 (3rd District)		1,500	1,500	10	PHP 1,248,000.00	60 C.D.
4 (4th District)		1,200	1,000	10	PHP 1,248,000.00	60 C.D.
5 (5th District)		1,100	1,000	10	PHP 1,248,000.00	60 C.D.
TOTAL		6,220	6,040	100	PHP 12,000,000.00	

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on May 30, 31, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP1,000.00 per set.

6. The DepED Division of Cebu Province will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 6, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

8. Bid opening shall be on June 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The DepED Division of Cebu Province reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

PATRICIA GRACE O. MALAZARTE
BAC Secretariat
DepED Division of Cebu Province
Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No. 238-4041

(Sgd.) **ADRIANA M. CORRIENTE**
BAC Chairperson
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE
CY 2012 SEFF

1. The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through the CY 12 SEFF School Furniture Program intends to apply the sum of PHP 1,248,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery (Electric Model of School Furniture for various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Bids received in excess of the ABC per Lot shall be automatically rejected and not opening.

2. The DepED Division of Cebu Province now invites bids for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Delivery of the Goods is required Sixty (60) Calendar Days per lot. Bidders should have completed, within Five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section 3, Instruction to Bidders.

Lot Number	Schools	Quantity (pc) Chairs	Quantity (pc) Desk	Teacher's Table & Chair (unit)	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration
1 (Lot 1 All Districts)		540	560	05	PHP 1,248,000.00	60 C.D.
2 (2nd District)		660	670	10	PHP 615,000.00	60 C.D.
3 (3rd District)		600	700	10	PHP 615,000.00	60 C.D.
4 (4th District)		570	570	10	PHP 307,000.00	60 C.D.
5 (5th District)		670	600	05	PHP 615,000.00	60 C.D.
TOTAL		3,040	3,040	50	PHP 1,248,000.00	

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on May 30, 31, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP1,000.00 per set.

6. The DepED Division of Cebu Province will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 6, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

8. Bid opening shall be on June 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The DepED Division of Cebu Province reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

PATRICIA GRACE O. MALAZARTE
BAC Secretariat
DepED Division of Cebu Province
Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. # 238-4041

(Sgd.) **ADRIANA M. CORRIENTE**
BAC Chairperson
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent

Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Email: mis@sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 2012-01 - Goods

TWO-YEAR CONTRACT FOR CARGO FORWARDING SERVICES

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Delivery/ Completion Period	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
			Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/Submission of Proposal/ Bids	
Lot I – Local Destination Lot II – Foreign Destination Project Location	P10,000,000.00 (Inclusive of VAT) P5,000,000.00 per year Cebu	Two (2) Years	June 18, 2012 / 10:00 a.m. Philippine Standard Time (PHILST)	June 25, 2012 / 10:00 a.m. Philippine Standard Time (PHILST)	P10,000.00 (LOT I) P10,000.00 (LOT II) P20,000.00 (LOT I and II)

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, through the Corporate Budget Fund, intends to apply the sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) being the ABC to payments under the contract for the Two-Year Contract for Cargo Forwarding Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening. Interested bidders may refer to the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section I, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in Sec. 25 of the Revised IRR of RA 9184 (Annex I-1 to I-7 of the Bidding Documents).

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the SSS and review the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders, starting on May 30 to June 7, 2012 from the address below and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check payable to the Social Security System. Payment may also be made through direct deposit to the SSS Account No. 0030-0000-00 with the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP). The Bidding Documents may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the SSS, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Executive Conference Room, 7th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City which is open to prospective bidders.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 25, 2012, 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

8. Bid opening shall be on June 25, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the Social Security System, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The SSS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Bids & Awards Committee
The Secretariat
4/F SSS Main Bldg., East Ave., Diliman, Q.C.
Telefax No. 920-6446 / 920-6401
Email: mis@sss.gov.ph
Website: www.sss.gov.ph
Trunkline Local – 6741 to 6744

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROBERT C. DE CHAVEZ**
Chairman
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
DepED
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon I, Lahug, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Three Million Nine Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Twenty Two Pesos only (Php 3,966,022.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the works described below:

Cluster	School	Municipality	Scope of Works	ABC	Duration
1	San Fernando (HS)	San Fernando	Const. of 2 STL Prefab Design School Building	3,966,022.00	120 C.D.
			TOTAL	3,966,022.00	

The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above-mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bids shall be rejected.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last two (2) years from date of submission and receipt of bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184. Information is also available at **www.philgeps.net**

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 7, 2012	Division of Cebu Province
Pre-Bid Conference	June 8, 2012, 9:30 a.m.	Division of Cebu Province
Submission and Opening of Bids	June 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m.	Division of Cebu Province

The Bidding Documents may be inspected or purchased at the address previously indicated below upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 4,000.00 by interested bidders. It may be viewed at the website of the PhilGEPS. Request for Expression of Interest (EOI), and Special Power of Attorney for authorized representative are required.

DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ADRIANA M. CORRIENTE**
BAC Chairperson

BAGUIO LOT FOR RENT

Corner Lot Size: 1,200m² Price: P*,000m² cor
Tel. # 7215309 / 09178209987 (Loreen)

REEBOK OFFERS LIGHTWEIGHT SOLUTION FOR TRAINING

REEBOK REALFLEX IS AN athletic shoe designed for men who want to escape the stiff feeling of a traditional athletic shoe. Created with natural motion of the foot in mind, RealFlex is designed to help feet move and flex rather why restrict you run, jump and stretch.

With technology you can feel, Reebok RealFlex offers the protection of a traditional athletic shoe designed with natural movement in mind. The sole is engineered with independent multi-directional "modes" strategically positioned to flex with the movements of the foot. The "modes" work together throughout your stride, promoting natural movement and flexibilityhile offering protection from the elements. RealFlex has minimalist construction and is designed to help provide blend support for soft-to-right training movements. The upper comes next of RealFlex footwear is both extremely lightweight and eye-catching, while the unique footnet application offers seamless detail and added stability.

"At Reebok we are committed to creating product technologies that offer immediate benefits you can feel. Realflex has had such a positive response from consumers and we really believe that its combined natural movement, lightweight and protective technology can offer athletes optimal training benefits," says Yan Martin, Head of Reebok's Men's Rindage Business Unit.

The new RealFlex collectionwere available at the following Reebok stores: Megamall, Trinoma, Festival Mall, Eastwood Citywalk 2, Robinsons Galleria and Royal Sporting House stores sidewide.

RSH Marketing Philippines, Inc is the local distributor of Reebok. For additional information, please call us at 635-4091.

INQUIRER LIBRE MAY TRABAHO DITO
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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS FOR THE CONCRETING OF ROAD (CONCHISAN - LABOANON ROAD) BARANGAY LABOANON, TAGUM CITY

(Reference No. : Invitation to Bid 2013-05-003)

1. The City Government of Tagum, through its Task Force Davao Del Norte, invites bids for the Procurement of Goods for the Concreting of Road (Conchisan - Laboanon Road) Barangay Laboanon, Tagum City.

2. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in the Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as defined in Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the City Government of Tagum and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the date of the publication of this Invitation upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

7. The City Government of Tagum reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor Old Building, Apokon Road, Tagum City
Telefax No. (084) 400-0123
Email Address: bac@tagumcity.gov.ph
Website: www.tagumcity.gov.ph

(SGD.)
ATTY. ALAN B. MACABENTA, CESO III
City Mayor

(Posted: May 28, 2013)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 851 Intramuros St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
MANDIRI AIR TRAVEL & TOURS, INC. (SP Nico Bldg., 112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City)	Sun Xin Hui / Korean	Operations Manager - Domestic Tour
DIRECTVHS.PHINES, INC. (L-66 Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Khanda / Indian	Manager Sales
PHILJIE RESOURCES LIMITED CO. INC. (Unit 6-3-11 Bldg., Km. 20, Diamond Hotel cor. Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila)	Hsiaocong Tung / Taiwanese	Assistant Operation Manager
PHILJIE RESOURCES LIMITED CO. INC. (Sta. 6-3-11 Bldg., Km. 20, Diamond Hotel cor. Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila)	Yu-Chun Chang / Taiwanese	Operation Manager
ENRIQUEZ, GARY (Unit 2-C/F Mandarin Square Bldg., #17 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City)	Aun Tse Wong / Malaysian	Technical Consultant
M G D KHAN CORPORATION (7-B J. Rizalino St., BF Homes, Parañaque City)	Nitin Manoj Jung / Korean	General Manager
WORLD ELECTRONICS VENTURES (L-G SOLUTIONS INC.) (Unit 1501 Atherton Centre, 674 Sumpaloc Centre, 401 Sumpaloc St., Brgy. Ugong Norte, San Juan)	Gino Fabaro / Gabriella / Italian	Middle Supervisory Engineer and Marketing Manager
PEACE & HAPPINESS COMPLEX (HUNG) (Unit G-10 CP Makati Executive Tower 1 E. Rod. SB Puyat Ave., Makati City)	Zhongjiang You / Chinese	Chinese Food Cook
SURETY HANSHIN EXPRESS PHILIPPINES, INC. (MRG Business Park, Brgy. San Francisco, Parañaque City)	Tatsuro Ikeuye / Japanese	Liaison
SUMITOMO CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (3/F Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Gen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City)	Nobuo Kawaguchi / Japanese	General Manager
DYKES ASIA, INC. (3/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Rose Pauline Sangat / Indonesian	Refrac - Technical Support Representative
PM YOUNG CORP. (3/F DAMCH Bldg., Boni Ave., Brgy. 775, Pasay City)	Hyoung Young Kim / Wife of Yuki / Korean	Consultant
PM YOUNG CORP. (3/F DAMCH Bldg., Boni Ave., Brgy. 775, Pasay City)	Jaigug Lee / Korean	Consultant
BIR BUSINESS SERVICES INC. (SP 1803 Seaboard Sun Bldg., 16 Sheridan City Cyberpark, Brgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City)	Rishi Raj Pradhan / Indian	Deputy Delivery Leader - Banks Financial Services/Key Supply Chain Management
SYBANK, N.A. (6F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City)	Ahmed Ahmadi / Emirati	Global Banking Head
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Yau Mu / Chinese	Supervisor
DIGEN INFOTEK INC. (Unit 1204 & 2002, 22/F The Orient Square, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Vijay Bhaskar Subramanian / Indian	Country Manager
DONGA IMMIGRATION & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY, INC. (3-05 The "I" Tower Condominium 32/F-F. Ortigas Jr., Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Sanghoon Huh / Korean	Supervisor
PHILIPPINE INFOSYS DEVELOPMENT INC. (Unit 1703 One Corporate Center, J. Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Isamitsu Katsuyoshi / Japanese	Manager
PHILIPPINE INFOSYS DEVELOPMENT INC. (Unit 2703-C One Corporate Center, J. Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Takayuki Watanabe / Japanese	Assistant Manager
ASG-ANIL EIRCOM NORDSIP INC. (Unit 1512 Cityland Mandani Crss. F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Lee Ho Da Lee / Korean	Manager
NORNICH INTERNATIONAL INC. (LOT2 D3F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City)	Da Sun Lee / Myanmar	Customer Service Agent
NORNICH INTERNATIONAL INC. (LOT2 D3F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City)	Aung Htut Kyaw / Myanmar	Customer Service Agent
ALPHA FIRST ASIA BRAND CORP. (2207-07 Raffles Corporate Center, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Dwiraj Satyawan Nurkasanah / Indonesian	Technical Consultant/Advisor
NISSAN AXE CORPORATION (Suite 01, 5/F LRG Tower, 5857 Ayala Avenue, Makati City)	Ryuichi Fujiwara / Japanese	Chief Operator
NISSAN AXE CORPORATION (Suite 01, 5/F LRG Tower, 5857 Ayala Avenue, Makati City)	Nishida Nobuyasu / Japanese	Manager
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Lanjiang Wang / Chinese	Supervisor
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Shaoyuneng Mai / Korean	Assistant Chief Operator
NISSAN AXE CORPORATION (Suite 01, 5/F LRG Tower, 5857 Ayala Avenue, Makati City)	Wei Seng Lim / Malaysian	Project Supervisor
ADDA ROBOTS BTE (PHILIPPINES), INC. (3/F Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City)	Feng Gao / Chinese	Software Consultant
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Huanhuan Li / Chinese	Supervisor
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Junming Dong / Chinese	Supervisor
SHANGHAI POWER TRANSMISSION AND TRANSFORMATION ENGINEERING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES) INC. (#86 Sto. Domingo St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Quezon City)	Liqun Wu / Chinese	Supervisor
MAXPRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (#86 Apo St., Brgy. Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City)	Leong Da / Chinese	Supervisor
SHANGHAI POWER TRANSMISSION AND TRANSFORMATION ENGINEERING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES) INC. (#86 Sto. Domingo St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Quezon City)	Weiliang Lu / Chinese	Supervisor
SHANGHAI POWER TRANSMISSION AND TRANSFORMATION ENGINEERING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES) INC. (#86 Sto. Domingo St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Quezon City)	Minghong Jiang / Chinese	Supervisor
SHANGHAI POWER TRANSMISSION AND TRANSFORMATION ENGINEERING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES) INC. (#86 Sto. Domingo St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Quezon City)	Jun Zhao / Chinese	Supervisor
AIFINES VENTURES (#10 Epsom St., San Andres Road, Sta. Ana, Manila)	Mohar Joseph Kalla Prime Bhatt / Indian	Senior Project Consultant

If you have any information/objection in the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(SGD.)
ATTY. ALAN B. MACABENTA, CESO III
Regional Director

(Date: May 28, 2013)

Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit the bids/proposals for the project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) unit supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of brand new, fully automatic Blood Chemistry Analyzer with 1000 tests/hour throughput and with 2 years supply of consumables and one (1) unit of spare parts for the entire duration of full warranties, free of charge/cost
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	ONE MILLION PESOS (1,000,000.00)
Delivery to Point of Loading	twenty (20) weeks from opening of Letter of Credit (LC)

Bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from 2007 to present amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. Any eligibility check/ Nonexistency as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Prospective bidders may obtain the Eligibility Statement and Bidding Documents (Nonexistency, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Date/Time
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 28 May 2013 (from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) Procurement Office 2nd Floor, Old Building, Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center, Dr. Pilapil St., Dinalupihan, Bataan Telefax No. (047) 633-2138
2. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 A.M., 12 June 2013, BHSC Library
3. Opening of Bids	2:00 P.M., 27 June 2013, BHSC
4. Bid Evaluation	Within seven (7) days in accordance with the prescribed timelines allowed in the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

The BAC and Committee on Procurement for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BGHMC website (www.bataangeneralhospital.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address stated below upon presentation of the PhilGEPS Supplier's Order Form and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Only bidders who have purchased the Bidding documents shall be allowed to raise or submit queries or clarifications during the pre-bid conference.

The BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to consignments or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, and to annul the bidding, to revise the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders. Furthermore, the BAC reserves the right to waive any minor defects in formality and to accept the bid/proposal it considers most advantageous to the agency.

(SGD.)
ENGR. ERNESTO J. BATTAD, SR.
Chairman

(Posted: May 28, 2013)

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OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

Engr. ERNESTO J. BATTAD, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord the 26th SALOME O' daughter PRACIDE on May 27, 2013 at the age of 90.

He beloved children ALICE & LITO URFE, AGNES, AIDA, JUNO & MARIVIC, TESSA & DING CALDERON, BONG & MARIE, TINETTE & ADOR MENDIOLA; grandchildren; great-grandchildren, brother & sister, requests your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Chapels, E.R. 6, Marikina.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 1, 2013 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Memoriam

Ernesto Tumang Santos

May 29, 1930 - June 1, 2011

Lovingly remembered, always in our hearts forever. Missed by brothers-in-law, Sonny and Jimmy; sisters Lady and Rosie; in-law Rosario and Mary Anne; nieces and nephews.

In celebration of his two year anniversary with our Creator, master will be offered at the following churches:

San Roque Parish Church, Makati City, Philippines	10:00 AM June 3, 2013
St. John the Baptist Church, New York City, USA	12:00 PM June 5, 2013
St. Timothy Church, Calgary AB, Canada	12:30 PM June 5, 2013
Holy Angels Church, Aurora cl., USA	6:45 AM June 10, 2013

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Identification Document (ID)

RATES:
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"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up." - Hosea 6:1

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Premium WiFi connection at Araneta Center as it upgrades to be a PLDT WiFi Zone

One-of-Quezon City's premier entertainment hubs is a certified WiFi Zone! Araneta Center's collaboration with the country's biggest telecommunications company gives PLDT subscribers exclusive access to premium WiFi from a dedicated broadband line.

It means that for just the additional P150 for PLDT myDSL subscribers, access to fast and reliable broadband services are made available at over 2000 establishments that are already declared part of the WiFi Zone, all that's needed is to establish one username and password that allows you full use of strong internet connections outside of the home, which PLDT's WiFi Zone has always been known for.

In Araneta Center, WiFi Zones are strategically located in key areas like Gateway, All Mall, and Trinet Araneta Coliseum. These locations are sure to multiply as Araneta Center continues plans for development. For now, see a list of WiFi ready establishments at wifizone.pldthome.com.

With partner energy development corporation Araneta Center to be a leading green, energy-conscious hub in Luzon's Metro.

Makoto and Ai Ai Delas Alas, entertainment, and dining patrons at Cubao X Central Complex.

From left, PLDT Cubao Supervisor, Flavio Alcaraz, Angie Gamboa, Cubao Luzon CBT Territory Sales Mgr Executive and Araneta Center's Ms. Cecile Mendoza CBT Marketing Mr. Jose Francisco of PLDT Manager Mr. Lorna Tolosa CBT Coverage.

Inflation seen benign

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE MANAGING General ng Pilipinas believes that the rate of rise in consumer prices will remain benign throughout the year so long as wages will not increase further.

BSP Assistant Governor Ms. Cyd Tuaño-Amador said domestic price pressures eased in the past weeks as oil prices in the world market declined.

Moreover, Amador said, the business sector's expectations that inflation this year will stay manageable will actually help temper price increases.

"Inflation expectations remain well anchored (in the target), and this gives comfort that increase in consumer prices will remain modest," Amador said.

If people expect price increases to be generally moderate, economists said, they may retain from purchasing more goods than they can currently consume. The tempered demand, in turn, will help slow down inflation. On the other hand, if people were to expect prices to surge in the coming months, then they would tend to buy more goods than they could consume, thereby accelerating inflation.

In the BSP's latest survey on business assessment, the inflation expectations index for the third quarter stood at +16.3 percent, lower than the +34.0 percent reported in the same period last year.

The decline in the index meant that fewer businessmen expect inflation to accelerate in the next few months.

The government expects inflation to stay within the 2 to 4 percent range it has set for this year and the next. But inflation would ideally remain benign this year if no surge hikes were to occur this year.

Recently, the wage boards approved increases to pay of workers. For Metro Manila, daily wages had been hiked by P20.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the P20 wage increase approved for Metro Manila was actually a bit higher than what the central bank had assumed.

"We have factored in about 3 percent wage adjustment for the year. A P20 wage adjustment is a little higher than our assumption, but that would still be broadly consistent with a 3-5 percent inflation target for 2012 and 2013," Guinigundo said.

There have been petitions for an additional increase in wages. Labor groups insisted that the P20 increase was not enough. But the central bank believes any additional hike in wages will result in more significant price pressures.

Deployed wage hawks, where the BSP serves as consultant, are not expected to implement any more pay hikes this year, Guinigundo said.

PH accedes to Madrid Protocol

By Nica T. Olchondra

THE Philippines is now a member of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol), according to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

This will make it easier and more affordable for companies to register their trademarks here and abroad as trademarks registered through the protocol will be automatically registered in member countries.

The Philippines' major trading partners such as Japan, United States, China, Singapore, Korea, Australia, and the European Union ... are all members of the Madrid Protocol.

A single channel will likewise facilitate renewals and changes in trademark ownership.

"For Filipino companies expanding abroad, this is great news. For the domestic companies, it will increase their competition with foreign brands. I hope the IDR (implementing rules and regulations) will have a safety mechanism for those affected. For example, give the local time and make it easy for them to register their brands, as well as get assistance for those going abroad," PCCI vice-president Sarah Lim said via text message.

The Madrid Protocol is a filing system that facilitates the registration of marks in several countries through a single application filed with the IPOPHL.

It simplifies the protection of marks outside the Philippines and reduces the cost of registration.

Accession to the Madrid Protocol will help Filipino entrepreneurs protect their brands as they expand into international markets since financial and administrative costs will be considerably reduced. The Madrid Protocol also eases the cost of doing business for foreign investors and facilitates exporting of businesses for Filipino entrepreneurs, IPOPHL said.

IPOPHL said it will begin accepting applications for trademarks via the Madrid Protocol by July 25, 2012.

Group backs shareholder 'activism'

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE PHILIPPINES still lags behind most of its neighbors in protecting the rights of minority shareholders in corporations, making the country's equity market less attractive to potential investors.

In a briefing yesterday, Shareholders' Association of the Philippines (SharePhil) said the lack of shareholder "activism" in the country allowed corporations to ignore good corporate governance practices.

The result is that investors, who entrust their hard-earned money to company managers, rarely get a voice in the decision-making or even the chance to question a corporation's actions.

"Other countries have investor groups that are very active in participating in company affairs. When definitely investor groups are solid, they get louder voices," SharePhil chair Evelyn Singson said.

She said the main advocacy of the newly formed group would be to educate investors of their rights and duties as part-owners of corporations.

The group wants to make sure that minority investors are no longer kept in the dark about the details of the operations of both listed and privately held companies, Singson said.

Also, lack of investor protection has made the country a less attractive investment destination compared to its neighbors, said Narciso Lim, former president of Philippine Stock Exchange and one of SharePhil's trustees.

"There is the perception that companies are not up to corporate governance standards," Lim said.

SharePhil also said new investors, such as locavestors, overseas workers and retirees could help jump-prime the economy by educating them on how to invest in stocks or make their money work for them, the group said.

DOE, DTI pushing e-vehicle dev't

THE DEPARTMENTS of Energy and Trade and Industry are working together to accelerate the development of the electric vehicle (EV) industry in the Philippines, Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) president Bernard Juan said in a statement.

Juan said that Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras is pushing for the development of the Alternative Fuels Vehicle Program, spending about two hours every week discussing and monitoring its development.

Almendras has also pushed for the National Economics and Development Authority-led presidential approvals of the $500-million e-Trike program to be administered by the DOE and to be funded by the Asian Development Bank, with a $90-million counterpart fund from the government.

The e-Trike project aims to replace the smoke-belching, gasoline-powered tricycles in the country.

Under the program, e-trikes will have to be assembled and assembled in the Philippines.

Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo, meanwhile, has tasked DTI offices in the four Asia region to organize missions composed of leading players in the EV industries of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan as prospective investors or joint venture partners in research and development, manufacturing, assembly and as suppliers of critical EV components, Juan said.

DTI will also help local EV players meet international business partners who are also technology capital assistance and steer the development of EV-related products for domestic and export markets, Juan said.

Nica T. Olchondra

Power Situation Outlook
for Tuesday, 29 May 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,545	1,614	1,178
System Peak (MW)	7,673	1,447	1,201
Grid Reserve (MW)	872	167	-02

Lito Thelma Simon San Juan
LIFESTYLE Wellness

Makati Medical Center now offering stem cell therapy

By Jeo Rojas
Contributor

STEM CELL therapy is now being offered at Makati Medical Center (MMC) as potential cure for a wide range of illnesses, from various types of cancer and heart ailments to incurable diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Stem cell therapy is believed to be effective in bone marrow transplant for leukemia patients, and with early intervention, yields desirable results among heart and prostate cancer patients.

Launched in the first year anniversary of the hospital's cancer center, MMC's Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory is equipped with technology touted to be "totally unprecedented in our country," says Dr. Francis Chong, scientific officer of the lab. "No system so technologically advanced."

Employing the sciences of fertility standards at par with that of the US Food and Drug Administration, the lab has state-of-the-art facilities. The Clinimacs CD34 Reagent System is a machine that isolates aprocitic cells needed for the procedure, while the Flow Cytometer ensures the purity of collected cells.

Transplantation

Sourcing the stem cells, however, is what truly sets the Philippines' premiere health institution apart from chi-chi spas that also push stem cell therapy for beauty and anti-aging procedures.

> It offers the groundbreaking—and controversial—treatment for a wide range of incurable diseases

At MMC, healthy stem cells are acquired from the patients themselves, a process known as autologous transplantation. For those suffering from an ailment, a parent, sibling or other close relative could be the donor. The hospital strives for utmost compatibility between patient and donor through a 10-point DNA matching system.

If a harmony of traits finds a patient to be agreeable, medication is given to prepare him for stem cell harvest.

Under anesthesia, a patient has his stem cells collected, either through his veins or bone marrow. The cells are then collected and multiplied, and re-administered or injected into a patient.

Side effects, if any, are low: soreness in the injection site, fever and flu-like symptoms.

Improvements arising from a stem cell treatment may be seen in two weeks or in a month.

—MARVIN CE

BREAKTHROUGH ALOE CURE SOLVES DIGESTIVE NIGHTMARES

Finally, a natural anti-acid that delivers instant relief to people who suffer from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, gas, bloating, diarrhea, and other stomach nightmares.

"Sometimes just 8 processing acid or make it stop," says Dr. Santiago Rodriguez, a world renowned medical botanist.

FINALLY THERE'S HOPE

At first, the thought of drinking Aloe Vera might make some people back away. Here's how it works.

STOMACH AGONY

Your stomach naturally produces acid so strong, it can dissolve an aluminum spoon in just 30 minutes! And when excess acid escapes into your esophagus, throat and stomach lining, it irritates the nerves causing pain of acid reflux, heartburn, ulcers and more severe. Add the problems of stress, and "all hell breaks loose."

Dr. Rodriguez explains... It hurries high acid levels with something speed. So your stomach feels completely at ease [illegible] after drinking it." In fact, it could wipe out stomach pain, discomfort, and bodily ruin in the bathroom.

DIGESTION DEFINED

[illegible]

"Your first line of defense. This natural acid buffer [illegible] instantly neutralizes stomach acid levels down so they don't worsen."

INSTANT SOOTHING RELIEF

Aloe Cure is brimming with polysaccharides, this "wonder" compound that gently coats the throat, esophagus and stomach, carrying instant relief to walls scorched with excess acid.

WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING

Aloe Cure is backed by [illegible] studies that confirm aloe calms stomach acid and all bone your body to heal itself. Dr. Lisa Lord, M.D. says, "That's why I recommend it to patients. This natural acid buffer who suffer from heartburn, acid reflux, ulcers and irritable bowel syndrome."

Dr. Santiago Rodriguez agrees, " Just two ounces of Aloe Cure softens the acids in your stomach by ten times."

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Kim Atienza, Matteo Guidicelli, Erwan Heussaff and more take on Subic triathlon

By PJ Enriquez
Contributor

A TRIATHLON IS a multidiscipline endurance race that challenges participants to complete a course where they must swim, bike and run, all in the same day.

A 1.5-km swim at Dungaree Beach, followed by a 40-km bike ride and finishing with 10-km run—such was the challenge set for the participants of 2012 Rhein ITU Subic International Triathlon, Presented by Century Tuna, it was held at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The race, now on its 19th edition, is one of the major events of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP). It drew more than 800 athletes, from professionals to amateurs, juniors to seniors.

Many well-known personalities joined top Philippine national team members Kim Mangrobang, Nico Hechgar and over 40 foreign participants. Among them were Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Eric Buhain, Marcos Goldcrofft and "Boys" Kim Atienza, who was doing his first triathlon.

A FIT Kim Atienza

ERWAN Heussaff

ERIC Buhain, former Olympian and PSC chief

KIM Mangrobang of the Philippine National Team Female Elite

MATTEO Guidicelli

KIM Atienza, Pete Di Siena member

ATHLETES started the race at Dungaree Beach.

Real men should stretch

By Tristan Chua
Contributor

With all the literature on the importance of stretching, I often wonder why guys don't do it after a grueling race or workout

I FINALLY forked a standard-distance triathlon off my bucket list. I joined more than 800 participants at the Subic Bay International Triathlon (Subic) (see Transbayi-ngos, and had a lot of fun.

After crossing the finish line, there was a take-care-of-yourself area off to the side. Drinks and towels were handed out, and a couple of tents set up to provide shade against the punishing sun.

In the corner was a small inflated plastic pool to dunk overheated feet, a huge fan with mist spray to help people cool down, and some chairs where some women gave graceful athletes a short massage.

It was a happy "thank God it's over" scene. It was a hot day, and athletes were just glad to be out of the sun. I found a couple of friends to hang out with and chanted as I did my cool-down exercises.

As I did my post-race routine, I noticed nobody else was stretching. I did, however, hear a lot of stories of legs cramping up and back and knee pain, and I saw contorted faces that seemed to pass for badges of honor of triathletes.

With all the literature on the importance of stretching, I often wonder why men don't do it after a grueling race or workout. A guy like me gets it. He tried...I want to rest, leave me alone.

Most likely, however, it must be because most men are too lazy to stretch, or they get bored waiting for the muscle to stretch.

Neanderthal mind

It just blows my mind—I am a yoga teacher—that these guys don't stretch. At all.

Their lowly Neanderthal minds are probably saying, "Dito la part of 'being an athlete. Rock it up." So, life with pain continues.

Considerable pain comes from tight muscles that don't allow the body to move fluidly, or from muscles that have been in the same position and are painfully on other body parts.

An example of the latter are the **muscles (and tight) hamstrings** pulling on the pelvis. This changes the curve of the lumbar spine. Without the normal curve, the body isn't able to take even just the weight of the upper body for long periods of time, and back pain ensues.

In time and with more issues. (The pain increases steadily. Finally, this is when people remember doing some stretching, albeit subconsciously. But now they discover the stretching painful. So back to no stretching. (Gotta love how human's minds work.)

Funny thing is, men know the benefits of being limber and flexible, but they won't do anything about it. It's one of those mysteries of life.

The next race I'm joining is the Century Tuna 5150 race in June, again, in Subic. This time, I think I'll do my post-race stretch behind a big tree. Just so I can still have a beer with the guys.

The author teaches yoga for athletes at Give Yoga (www.giveyogaasia.com) at Greiges Corner and at Bikram Yoga Manila (www.bikramyogamanila.com).

Book launch, camping mark spa's anniversary celebration

NATURE Spa Village in Silang, Cavite, celebrates its 10th year anniversary with a thanksgiving bash and a double launch.

It will launch a book and outdoor series, "Nature," and its new "Glamping" activity package for families and groups seeking wellness in a fun, relaxing way.

"Glamping" combines "glamour" and "camping." The package combines the relaxing, therapeutic experience with the fun of camping.

Nature Spa Village has expanded its property to the Subic Campsite, where glamping activities will be held.

According to owners Mike and Cathy Tarroll, unlike in the past, when the spa focused on couples who got overnight packages, today, the village can accept groups on holiday and symposium or team building.

Tarroll says Spa Village opened in 2002, one of the pioneering spas in the Philippines. It is credited deep in the coffee orchards of Silang, Cavite, and follows an all-natural approach to wellness.

Cathy considers the village a center for "soulfulness"—wellness through a connection with nature. The place is filled with flowers and lush greenery. Bonsai open in the gardens and a mini tropical forest.

In 2013, Nature Spa Village was named one of the 50 Most Relaxing Spas in Asia by CNN Go (June 2013) and one of the top fifteen Spas of the Philippines by the Philippine Tatler's publication Asia Spa Magazine (May-June issue, 2013).

The distinctly Filipino spa treatments offered include the Hilab Massage, Braga Massage, Hilot Kagalingan, Bolo Foot Spa and Moreja Facial.

The Nilalt Massage is Nature's signature treatment which uses a warmed herbal pouch wrapped in banana leaves to provide a powerful healing and relaxing experience.

The massages use top quality therapeutic **aromatherapy oils developed by Mike Tarroll**, who studied aromatherapy and holds a doctorate in organic chemistry from the UK.

Braga Massage is another signature Full

HILAB massage

body muscle therapy treatment that relaxes the mind and body, relieves one of anxiety and tension, and provides deep calm.

Hilot Kagalingan is based on the traditional Filipino massage and takes three to four hours. It helps prevent or relieve colds, sprains, fever and fatigue.

It also offers exquisite facial and body treatments from Hamdorge of Germany and Algotherm from France, brands found in five-star spas internationally.

It also offers wellness packages for weight loss, stress relief, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol reduction, cancer relief and prevention, among jointly rational medicine like detoxification, acupuncture and herbal medicine.

They are surrounded by Dr. Sun Dixon, consultant doctor who practices alternative medicine.

To be featured in "Choices"—a book and continuous series by Cathy Tarroll, "Choices" is an easy-to-follow guide for busy people to achieve health and vitality by following the principles of nature and healing.

For more information on Nature Spa Village, visit their website at www.naturespa.com.ph or e-mail at info@naturespa.com.ph.

Instead of dieting, try these 3 things

By Randy Gracia
Contributor

It never works because it's never practical. Why it is a big mistake

I'VE WRITTEN about one of the most common mistakes people make when they're trying to lose fat, by doing slow and long distance cardio. I discussed the most effective type of cardio that burns more fat. Another common mistake I see people make involves nutrition.

That biggest mistake is dieting! That's right—dieting is a big mistake.

People have tried one, two, or more diets in their attempt to lose weight. If diets "work," why do people have to try more than one?

Diets don't work because psychologically, you start off with a negative action. When you start dieting, you want drinking about the food you have to "give up," eating what you really don't like, etc. It doesn't sound motivating at all.

Diets can be too restrictive or difficult to follow. Depending on the diet, some foods are off limits, and the ones that are not might be foods you don't like.

Diets dictate the exact amount of food you should eat, how many calories, what time you should eat, the percentage of calories coming from carbs, protein and fat, etc.

Diets are generally not practical for everyday life. Imagine having to weigh, measure and calculate everything you put in your mouth. If you are a professional athlete who needs your body to be at optimal levels, then yes, you should be that detailed. However, being fastidious is not practical if you don't rely on your body to earn a living.

The number one thing that will help you in your nutrition goals is to focus on adopting new healthy eating habits at a time. For non-athletes, people try to change too many habits at one time, which is a recipe for failure because behavioral changes take time to ingrain. Adopt one habit and be consistent in observing it. Once you become consistent, add another to work on, and so on.

Here are three simple healthy eating habits to get you on the right track for maximum fat loss.

1. Take a multivitamin and a fish oil supplement.

2. Drink at least 3 liters of water a day, preferably two liters.

3. Eat protein in all your meals.

Nutritional gaps

A multivitamin and fish oil supplement will help make up for the nutritional gaps in your diet. Don't worry about what multivitamin to take; just work on taking it consistently everyday for now.

For fish oils, I prefer the liquid type, but if you don't like the fishy taste, pills are fine. Follow the recommendations on the label. The goal is to get you taking them consistently daily.

Drink more water; it is likely you are not drinking enough. A saying goes—"If you are thirsty you are already dehydrated." Don't wait to get thirsty to drink water.

Drink water throughout the day. Have a bottle of water on hand so it is readily available. People often mistake thirst for hunger. They eat even if they're not really hungry, and this leads to weight gain.

Protein is an essential nutrient. Its function is not only to build muscles. Weight loss, increasing fat metabolism, and a reduction in cardiovascular risk are among the health benefits of increased protein intake.

The goal is to get protein from whole foods (chicken, fish, meat, etc.). If that is not possible, a protein supplement is a good option.

There are many different types of protein shakes, so don't get stuck trying to figure out which one to get. The goal is to have protein from whole foods with every meal, and if you can't, a protein supplement will do.

Where to go from here?

Healthy nutrition habits will get you started on the right track, because they are simple and easy to observe. The next step is to polish one of the habits and observe it consistently.

If you are able to do it everyday for one to two weeks, add the next habit. In six weeks, you will have established a good nutritional foundation to achieve your health and fitness goals.

Filipino-American coach Randy Gracia is the founder and president of Ab-U, Fitness Solutions LLC, a New York City-based fitness consulting company. Visit www.ab-ufitness-solutions.com.

How can you tell if you are a victim of benign possession?

WE ARE ALREADY familiar with the Hollywood and local movie caricature of a person possessed by an evil spirit. The stereotypical victim is a woman who is irrational-looking, uncontrolled, physically strong and foul-mouthed.

In the rural people, spirit at the crossfit and laughs-off prayers of exorcism. But even people's deep secrets, especially their indiscretions and moral lapses.

This stereotype has stuck in the public mind where possession is concerned. What is not so well known to people is that there is also such a thing as "benign" possession, a term I have coined to distinguish it from the destructive and fearsome "demonic" possession.

In benign spirit possession, the victim or subject is usually not aware that there is a spirit inhabiting or, at least, hovering around him or her. He or she appears normal and is able to function normally and even professionally.

Usually, the possessing spirit is a dead relative or close friend who wants to be with the subject. The spirit means the subject no harm and, on the contrary, wants to protect and help him or her.

How can a person tell if there is a spirit acting through him or her, and often controlling his or her thoughts, even actions?

Dr. Nilda Pone, an American psychologist who had dealt with thousands of such cases, enumerates some of the common signs or characteristics of spirit possession in her pioneering book published 15 years ago, "The Unquiet Dead":

1. Low energy level
2. Character shifts or mood swings
3. Inner voice(s) speaking to the victim
4. Abuse of drugs (including alcohol)
5. Impulsive behaviors
6. Memory problems or lapses
7. Poor concentration or attention
8. Sudden cases of anxiety or depression
9. Sudden onset of physical health problems with no obvious cause
10. Emotional and/or physical reactions to reading "The Unquiet Dead."

[The fact characteristic obviously does not apply to those who have not read the book.]

Negative effect

In benign possession, there is no intention on the part of the spirit to harm the victim or subject. In fact, the possessing spirit may even think it is helping. But possession in the long term always has a negative effect on the subject. Therefore, the subject should be released as soon as possible. But how?

Instead of the familiar term "exorcism," with its religious connotations, Pone coined a term to describe the liberation of a person possessed by an entity. She calls her process "depossession."

The difference between exorcism and depossession is in emotion; there is usually a battle between good and evil, in depossession there is more of a dialogue between the possessing spirit and the one performing depossession. The spirit is persuaded to move on to a higher level in the spirit world by going with his or her relatives or spirit guides. There is no dramatic casting out of the devil in the name of Christ, wrestling or a mystical sprinkling of holy water.

Although the intention of a benign spirit may not be evil, the effect on the possessed subject is not necessarily pleasant or beneficial.

I remember a depossession I did on a middle-aged woman in Poznan, Poland, over two years ago. She was a strong-willed psychologist who felt that she was losing control of herself and was blaming her male partner of 11 years for it.

She said she realized how she had been losing control of herself about three months before she came to me. I tried to trace this either to her childhood or to a past life, but I couldn't. So I decided to put her in a trance and asked if there was any other spirit in the body of the subject. She replied, "Yes."

I decided to talk directly to the spirit, telling her that she was no longer on the earth plane and, rather than helping the subject, she was actually ruining her life, her career and her relationship. The spirit realized very quickly her bad effects on the subject and agreed to leave her and head for the light.

I assured her that she would find greater happiness in the spirit world.

The victim felt very relieved after that and thanked me profusely. Her disposition also changed suddenly into a more positive one.

In her book, Pone made the bold statement that "more than 98 percent of patients confined to mental hospitals in the United States are not insane, they are possessed."

I wonder what the figure would be in the Philippines, where the people are more sensitive to the spirit world and thus more prone to spirit possession. We seriously guess.

NOTE:

For those interested in personal consultation or individual past life hypnotic regression, scientifically based seminars and other paranormal services, call 8165941 or 0920 8815962 for details. The first Practical Mind Dynamics seminar is on June 9-10, 9 a.m. at the Dr. JOSE PUYAT Main Library, Guijarro St., Greenhills, Manila.

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PLDT Head for Home Marketing, Dan Ibarra, says WiFi Zone up in a nutshell. "WiFi Zones let you experience the strong connections you have at home without you ever having to miss out on the broadband experience that you're used to." And now that there are over 3500 establishments that are a part of it, opportunities to stay connected are easy no matter where you are.

"Putting WiFi Zones all over the metro was part of a plan that fulfills an ongoing commitment to making PLDT services available to more Filipinos," continues PLDT Vice President and myDSL Head, Gary Dujali. That means also making it easy for subscribers to avail themselves of the add-on service by assigning just one username and password for an experience of convenient WiFi in all of these places.

WiFi Zone is open to PLDT consumers with just an additional P150 on monthly service fees for myDSL subscribers.

Today, PLDT WiFi Zones are found in major shopping complexes like Ayanata Center, Eastwood City and Greenhills Theatre Mall, favorite restaurants like Burger King, Yellow Cab, and Army Navy; plus major hangouts like Republiq, Dogny's, and Open, with more forecast to come your way soon. Register at wifizone.pldthome.com to subscribe.

THE MAKATI Medical Center's Cancer Center celebrated its first year anniversary and marked the occasion with the launch of its Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Dr. Eric Flores, head, Spine Clinic and Stem Cell Lab; Noelle Hechanova, Makati Medical Center president and CEO; Dr. Manuel O. Fernandez Jr., executive vice president and director, Professional Services; Dr. Benedicto S. Sunico, director and treasurer, MCH Board; Dr. Benjamin N. Almoro Jr., medical director; Dr. Francis Chung, scientific officer; Sister Cel Lutz; and Augusto P. Palisoc Jr., executive director, president and CEO, MPIC Hospital Group.

Makati Medical Center now offering stem cell therapy

From page C2

Neurosurgeon Eric Flores has returned from miraculous results from stem cell therapy in his capacity as assistant professor at the University of Minnesota.

He says it is "the future of medicine, particularly in stem cell rescue, the success rate is very high. And children's response to treatment is fantastic."

Interestingly, the hospital's newest place in our stem cell therapy is beauty procedures. According to Dr. Flores, who heads MMC's Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory, a collaboration with Dr. Manuel Fernandez, head of MMC's Aesthetic Center, will allow specialists to reconstruct a cancer survivor's breast, with the use of her own cells.

For more information on stem cell therapy, visit MMC's Cellular Therapeutics Lab, 8/F Tower 2, Makati Medical Center, Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, or call 8888999.

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CERVICAL CANCER FAQ

What is Cervical Cancer?

Cancer is a disease of certain cells in the body grow out of control. Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix — the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.

What does The Cancer Of Cervical Cancer?

Most cervical cancers are caused by sexual transmission of human papillomavirus (HPV) plays a role.

What Are The Risk Factors Of Cervical Cancer?

- Many sexual partners. The greater your number of sexual partners — or the greater your partner's number of sexual partners — the greater your chance of acquiring HPV.
- Early sexual activity. Having sex before age 18 increases your risk of HPV.
- Other sexually transmitted infections. If you have other STIs — such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis or HIV/AIDS — your risk of HPV infection and cervical cancer is also raising HPV.
- A weak immune system. Most women who are infected with HPV never develop cervical cancer. However, if you have an HPV infection and your immune system is weakened by another health condition, you may be more likely to develop cervical cancer.
- Cigarette smoking. Smoking and HPV infection may work together to cause cervical cancer.

What Are The Signs & Symptoms Of Cervical Cancer?

Early cervical cancer generally produces no signs or symptoms. As the cancer progresses, the following signs and symptoms of more advanced cervical cancer may appear:

- Vaginal bleeding after intercourse, between periods or after menopause
- Watery, bloody vaginal discharge that may be heavy and have a foul odor
- Pelvic pain or pain during intercourse

What Tests Are Used To Detect And Diagnose Cervical Cancer?

There are many tests that can be used to detect and diagnose cervical cancer, but the most common are a Pap smear. A Pap smear can detect abnormal cells in the cervix, including cervical cells that show changes (dysplasia) that increase the risk of cervical cancer.

How Can I Prevent Cervical Cancer?

- Have a cytology every time you have sex, to reduce your risk of contracting HPV.
- Delay first intercourse.
- Have fewer sexual partners.
- Avoid smoking.
- Get vaccinated against HPV.

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Health Talk with Dr. Arnel and Romeo Nuguid

Starting this week, Dr. Arnel and Romeo Nuguid will answer all your health questions every Tuesday of the month.

Two of the country's top physicians, Doctors Arnel Cenina Nuguid are doctors in Asian Hospital and St. Luke's Global City, Fort Bonifacio.

For this week, Dr. Arnel and Romeo will answer frequently asked questions regarding fiber.

FIBER: IS IT IN YOU?

Q: What is Fiber alchemy doesn't exist?

A: Fiber, also known as roughage, is a complex carbohydrate found in plant materials that the human body cannot break down. Our body needs fiber to properly digest food as we can properly eliminate waste from our body. The fruit by substance cleans our colon as it makes its way through the digestive tract. Major sources of dietary fiber include vegetables, fruit, grains, and legumes.

Fiber helps in the entire digestive process, from start to finish. Foods rich in fiber need to be chewed more thoroughly. Therefore slowing down the eating process and contributing to a feeling of being full. People who consume high fiber diets are at lower risk of obesity from overeating. Fiber makes you feel full without adding calories.

Fiber slows the digestive process and absorption. In effect, glucose (sugar) in food enters the bloodstream at a slower rate, helping to keep blood sugar levels within normal levels.

Fiber also helps ease constipation. Constipation occurs when the intestine has absorbed too much water from the stool that passes through. The slower the food moves through your digestive tract, the more water will be absorbed from food, resulting in dry and hard stools. Defecation becomes very painful. Hemorrhoids are because that constipation is quite a common problem among children and elderly alike. The most common cause of constipation is a diet lacking in adequate quantities of fiber. Insoluble fiber adds bulk to the stool, acting as a sponge to absorb water. It, therefore, helps keep the stool soft and keeps the content of the intestines moving. Anyone starting a higher fiber diet will notice the difference in about both and in almost all cases, eliminating fiber in the diet will relieve constipation in the first hours or days.

Insoluble fiber provides water bearing and "bulk" to diets, and helps reduce internal stress in colon and reduces incidence of certain colonic condition, including colon cancer. Soluble fibers include cellulose influence or absorption of other nutrients that are in small intestine. This provides a positive effect in intestinal health and provides a colonic environment compatible with the growth of beneficial bacteria. Fiber is known to "bulk out" terms, tightens hard on the liver, and improves overall digestion. The more fiber you take, the faster the effect.

Choose your poison

If you have a sweet tooth, try not to nurture it daily. Instead, increase your consumption of vegetables and fiber

INSIDE OUT

Gwy Dorotan

LIFE CAN be bitter or sweet—especially if we learn to control the naughty guiltease that are part of our everyday life.

Some may consider them cravings, others, a must during "chest days." Whatever the labels you give them, these little habits could be our poison or our medicine.

Sweet something

Dextrose sugar is more than just a sweet delight for the palate and the senses, when taken excessively, it could lead to health complications. Sugar has been linked to diabetes, fatigue, obesity, kidney problems, heart disease, dementia and tooth decay. So what is the innocuous sugar I chainsaw of the body?

It is widely believed that the human body doesn't need too much sugar except in its refined form, as fructose or simple sugars. According to Wikipedia, the average person consumes 24 kg of sugar a year. Here if you break that down, that's 66 grams per person per day. Think about it: If you are female, your recommended average calories intake should be around 1,200. This means that almost 20 percent of your regular intake is sugar. Carbohydrates fall under the category of sugar.

Know that most carbohydrates turn to glucose during digestion.

Sugar tastes. Even if you are a vegetarian, you must know that sugar cane, sugar beet and carrots are sweet and considered as cream. Likewise, milk in the form of lactose is a naturally occurring sugar.

According to a Harvard study by Lund University, sugar has been associated with an increase in LDL or bad cholesterol. So, if you have a sweet tooth, try not to nurture it daily. Instead, increase your consumption of vegetables and fiber.

How's the body having sugar cravings? Understandable. Sugar can give you an instant high. But it also gives you a drastic low. This causes effect isn't good for your pancreas, which has to release insulin to regulate high blood sugar levels.

To quell your hunger for sweets, take pieces or vegetables before consuming that chocolate cake or bowl of ice cream. This should effectively manage your sugar levels.

Warning: The immune system is closely depressed by high sugar consumption. So, if you want to keep your immunity strong, consume sugar in moderation.

The high that is a low

Dependence happens slowly. Individuals that alter the mood while assuming the senses are considered drugs.

Why do people become drug-dependent? Because drugs make them feel good. But that is only temporary.

—Jose Medina Lawsin, PhD, author of "Seven Weeks to Sobriety," explains that drugs fill a certain need in a person's life.

While the relief is short-lived, continuous use of drugs over time—whether heroin, cocaine, or alcohol—will interfere with the body's natural ability to produce endorphins, the "feel good" hormones. And when this happens, the cycle of craving for a drug leads to dependency. Gary Baker and Linda Francis share this list of tendencies in "The Heart of the Soul."

Alcoholism and drug addiction are symptoms. The cause, a deeper problem that must be resolved if the symptoms are to be removed for good.

More often than not, it is anyone emotional pain. Do you know that the difference between addiction, frequent use and less frequent use is just a matter of one degree? They're the same culprits that are the cause for all manifestations: failure, insecurity, rejection, stress.

Emotional pain is connected to the core problem: a disconnection with the soul. These are parts of a person that need healing, requiring an inward journey. This journey is a faster one for those who wish to experience true wholeness. It requires an exploration of the self and an examination of every experience of humiliation and loss.

When you are in emotional pain, your soul is asking. There is a call from within you, alcohol and drugs are ways of avoiding and ignoring the calls, whether it's for a few days or a lifetime. See the drugs and alcohol will not stop the calls from coming enough.

They will only stop when you have been and eventually heal your hurts. Because in the end, only you can heal yourself. The answers is in your hands.

Binging beyond belief

Even if you surround yourself with food, you still will be hungry. Why can eating become a problem? Because many people tend to eat emotionally, whether they are aware of it or not.

To those who are food binging right now, stop and listen. It is not the gratification you get from food that you actually need—it's your acceptance of yourself. Beyond the chocolate bars, chips and pastas. There is you, seeking self-validation, and you will not find it in food. Find the root of your obsession and obsessive eating.

Maybe your love life is in chaos, so you find overburdened with work or abused by your friends or family. Feeling betrayed and neglected, you turn to comfort food instead of seeking comfort from those who truly care.

Food binging is an addiction. It is about fear of denial. Look for the reason behind the food craving each time you are faced.

Live down your reasons for eating. For example:

- I deserve it not because I am...
- I don't care how I look. Confidence!
- I am angry, that's why food is my reward.

Every time you are in need of food, tell yourself: "Do I really need to eat this?" Once awareness has set in, then your real recovery has begun.

The banquet that never ends is the one that elevates your celebration of life to a new awareness of who you truly are. You are a child of God, who provides all the nourishment you will ever need.

All the best,

"I open my heart to love."

Love and Light!

Lecture on the 'Bhagavad Gita' set at Iyengar Yoga Center Manila

TIMOTEO A. Chichioco

A SERIES OF LECTURES will be hosted by the Iyengar Yoga Center Manila (IYCM) on its Saturday panel speaker Timoteo A. Chichioco, on its third session of "Scientific term, who will be discussing the "Bhagavad Gita." The "Bhagavad Gita" is part of the "Mahabharata," an ancient Indian epic poem, and can be taken as a sacred text, a historical document, or philosophical training. The Gita, as it is called, is the best place to start an exploration of the history and philosophy of yoga.

Lecture is scheduled from June 12-17, Tuesday to Saturday, 6-8 p.m., and Sunday, 4-6 p.m. No yoga experience required. For a P500 session or P400 per session if attending two or more, first come, first served. Reservation fee is P500.

Please call 8921 or 7990870 or (0917) 5599771, or e-mail info@iyengarmanila.com. Visit www.iyengarmanila.com for details. IYCM is on the 4/F South Asia Tower, Ruckus Corner, Makati.

ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Ennie-G. Velarde

Back in business

DID YOU KNOW...

(UPDATED) Sony Music Philippines bosses Nicolas Chee and Vic Valenzuela will be back in business soon. The two, with a few partners, are set to open a new independent record label, Cuore, which will reportedly distribute a number of indie releases from abroad, as well as sign up local acts. The two men caught up with Valenzuela, who confirmed the news during the screening of song entries for the Philippine Pop Music Festival (PhilPop). Cuore will release the album containing Philpop's top 14 finalists.

New songs breathe life to record industry

NHCC is proud of all 14 Philpop finalists.

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE LOCAL record industry may be in dire straits, but it doesn't mean musicians are losing interest in writing new songs. Certain quarters are, in fact, helping stimulate creativity by organizing events that entice songwriters to bring out their works.

At the center of these efforts is composer Ryan Cayabyab, who has been tapped by concerned sectors to get involved in **three projects aimed** to discover new talents.

The finals of the 1st MVP (Empowering mga Musikerong Pilipino) Pop Music Festival, held recently at the new Theater of the Star City Complex in Pasay, had 14 young composer-finalists (out of thousands of entries) who vied for the grand prize.

Cayabyab headed the panel of judges.

The winning song, "Lead the Way," stood out for its optimistic inspiring sentiments laid out on a lush, R&B, hip-hop groove. The composers, Q-York and Xiri Lopez, who also performed their song, were said to have written it after listening to Gary Valenciano's talk during the Ito Elemento Sachuel Songwriting Camp in Dasmariñas, Negros Oriental.

Speaking of Elemento, the annual music camp (held every November) subsidized in 2012 by launching Radio Republic, an online radio station (radiorepublic.com.ph) with an all-Pilipino music programming.

Grand festival

If things go on as planned, this year's Elemento will feature a grand music festival in Bontoguyan.

The people behind Elemento are businessman Jun Sy, former record label executive Dominic Lapitan, and Cayabyab. They have formed a company, TAO Music Studios, on their pledge of commitment to help revitalize Pinoy music.

Just last week, Cayabyab presided over the screening of entries to the 1st Philippine Popular Music Festival (PhilPop), a new songwriting competition in search of new blood that will regenerate the sound of today's generation. A project of Mayorkind, whose executives said the company is in it for the long haul, Philpop is offering a grand prize of P1 million.

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- MEGA BLOCK 4
- MEGA BLOCK 5 — Digital 3D
- 7 (SEVEN SHADOWS)
- 8 (SAW)
- 9 THE AVENGERS
- 10 (DON'T BREATH A SAW)

MANILA

- MEGA BLOCK 1
- DIRECT CINEMA 2 — Digital 3D
- MEGA BLOCK 3 — Digital 3D
- WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 5
- DESPERADO
- (SEVEN SHADOWS / THE AVENGERS)

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- MEGA BLOCK 3
- WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
- MEGA BLOCK 5
- (SAW SHADOWS)
- THE AVENGERS
- STREET DANCE 2
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- MEGA BLOCK 5
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)

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- MEGA BLOCK 2
- MEGA BLOCK 3
- THE AVENGERS
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)

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- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- MEGA BLOCK 2
- MEGA BLOCK 3
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- STREET DANCE 2
- (SAW SHADOWS / THE AVENGERS)

IMUS

- THE AVENGERS
- MEGA BLOCK 1
- (SAW SHADOWS)
- MEGA BLOCK 3 — Digital 3D
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 4

TACLOBAN

- (SAW SHADOWS / THE AVENGERS)
- SAW
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- MEGA BLOCK 2

ILOCOS NORTE

- (DON'T BREATH A SAW 3D)
- MEGA BLOCK 1
- MEGA BLOCK 2 — Digital 3D

DUMAGUETE

- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 2

BACOLOD

- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- RESERVE
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 3
- THE AVENGERS / (SAW SHADOWS)
- MEGA BLOCK 5

ILOILO

- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- (SAW SHADOWS)
- MEGA BLOCK 3
- MEGA BLOCK 4
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- THE AVENGERS

GENSAN

- MEGA BLOCK 1 — Digital 3D
- THE AVENGERS / (SAW SHADOWS)
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 4

ANGELES

- MEGA BLOCK 1
- (SAW SHADOWS)
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 4 — THE AVENGERS

PAMPANGA

- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 2
- MEGA BLOCK 3 — Digital 3D
- THE AVENGERS / (SAW SHADOWS)

PALAWAN

- STREET DANCE 2
- (DON'T BREATH A SAW)
- MEGA BLOCK 2
- MEGA BLOCK 3 — Digital 3D

VIEW FROM THE TOP Opening night, May 11, of the SM Mall of Asia Arena, when a near-capacity audience packed the Lady Gaga concert.

A close look at the MoA Arena

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE CONVENIENCES that accompanied Lady Gaga's recent Manila concert almost eclipsed the excitement of watching the two-night shows in a new venue, the 500 Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

It did not help that people thought the 20,000-capacity Arena—which reported cost P3.5 billion to build—would not be ready for the concert, since construction was still going on a few weeks before Lady Gaga arrived.

In fact, a team from the American singer-songwriter's management flew in advance just to personally conduct an on-site inspection of the venue.

Fortunately everything went fine on opening night, with an almost-capacity crowd beholding the Arena's spanking new features.

Here's what it looks like:

From the outside, the Arena's design resembles the outline of a gigantic eye—a clever symbolism for the optical thrill that the entertainment and sports venue offers.

Escalators

At the lobby are escalators that take spectators to their designated sections.

The most striking thing about the walk towards the doors is the spaciousness of the area, which reminds you of the passenger lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

At the sides of the walk are concessionaires that sell Americana, Mexican, Italian and other fastfood fare. What's good about them is that there are enough enclosed tables so you can stroll down a stand or meal before showtime.

Restrooms are conveniently located near the doors of each section.

What you'll truly appreciate, once inside the arena itself, is the comfort—the seats have ample legroom even for tall folks.

A luxurious feature are the special "suites" just above the lower box section. These are said to be reserved for sponsors and corporate entities that have plunked in money for the privilege of watching the action from a glassed, locked-in room with couches and private restroom.

The only hesitation are the following:

• Overzealous ushers who motion you to stay seated up even when everybody else is jumping up and down with excitement over the music.

• The unavailability of other kinds of drinking water for sale aside from the distilled brand—which is shunned by those who are aware of its lack of health benefits.

• And the absurdity of having beer kiosks whose attendants tell you that you can't buy a drink until after the concert is over.

Nonetheless, the coming shows lined up at the Arena are: Taylor Swayre and Edwin McCain, June 1; SHOUTBOX (New Kids On The Block and Backstreet Boys), June 3; "Jesus" (featuring 24 all-star Pinoy music artists), June 30; The Prey, June 23; and Cirque Du Soleil (starting Aug. 9).

Chad Borja swings back

THE COMEBACK trail for singer Chad Borja is full of enticing possibilities, judging from the kind of music he performed last week at 19 East in Ilustat, Steakhouse.

Backed by an eight-piece band, Borja ripped up his set with dozens of swinging jazz, funk, R&B, rock and good old pop in a repertoire that covered Frank Sinatra standards, Van Morrison, Queen, Terence Trent D'Arby, Chicago, Earth, Wind & Fire (EWF), Van Halen, Hiland, Stevie and Nate—which had the audience looking at each other and smiling like they just discovered the fountain of youth.

Borja—who looked thyroid cancer 12 years ago and is releasing a new album soon—looked hale and hearty himself.

His vocals sounded well-oiled and weird with confidence. He take on EWF's "I'll Write a Song for You," in which his falsetto glided with a rollercoaster thrill, would make Philip Bailey blush.

REVIEW

But Borja also obliged with an original, "Easy Ako/Lazy Jane" (a mash from his eponymous 1997 album "Show Me the Way"), and his unruly reworked version of "Hiraya," a 1970s hit by Asiong—admitting that he's ready to plunge back into the pop mainstream.

The band, an indispensable part of Borja's current incarnation, was a blast of funky exuberance. The horn section, composed of Mike Inocencio (sax), Benny Francisco (trumpet) and Jeremie Manguiat (trombone), blew away the worries of the day with its swaying melodies and cathartic solos.

Guitarist Noel Santiago was in a class of his own, cranking out arrow-wise riffs while handling the vocals on "Saturday in the Park."

After hearing their superb renditions of "Moondance," "You Can't Hurry Love" and "Digging" on James Brown," it would be a sin to miss Borja and his band the next time around.

Pocholo Concepcion

BIG BAND SHOVE Chad Borja rocks the music at his recent gig in 19 East club.

Xian Lim climbs to No. 3 OPM

TOP SELLING albums in the country for the week May 24-28, based on Odyssey Music & Video's numerals sales reports:

OPM

1) Various Artists, "Walang Kanggan (Repackaged)," Star; 2) Angeline Quinto, "Fall in Love Again," Star; 3) Xian Lim, "Ito Na Ba," Star; 4) Various Artists, "Ry Popular Demand 5," Universal; 5) Angeline Quinto, "Pancho ang Pangamay," Star; 6) Willie Revillame, "Sponpre," Star; 7) Kamikazee, "Buhaydeo," Universal; 8) Various Artists, "The Reunion: An Iconoclasts Tribute to Yuan," Star; 9) Noel Cabangon, "Buklo," Universal; 10) Basil Valdez, "Basil Valdez," Viva Music

Overall

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Repackaged)," Star Records; 2) One Direction, "Up All Night," Sony Music; 3) Angeline Quinto, "Fall In Love Again," Star; 4) Adele, "21," Warner Music; 5. Xian Lim, "Ito Na Ba," Star; 6) Various Artists, "Ry Popular Demand 5," Universal Records; 7) Angeline Quinto, "Pamboy ang Pangamay," Star; 8) Willie Revillame, "Sponpre," Star; 9) Vice Ganda, "#1 Hilera, #1 Shared Dream," Universal; 10) Various Artists, "The Forever Hits Ever, Vol. 2," MCA Music

odyssey
MUSIC & VIDEO

New songs breathe life...

From page D1

Over 3,000 aspiring and veteran composers submitted entries. A group of more than 100 judges—composed of record executives and producers, radio DJs, music critics, dominitor and composers—spent six days in several frantic stints at Resorts World Manila's Remington Hotel listening to the entries, which were trimmed down to 34 finalists.

A press conference held yesterday at the Genting Club of Manila's Hotel, also in Resorts World, announced the top 14: "1 x us," by Kyla Sorosoro; "Bigtime" by Trina Belmonte; "Mina's Song Suite" by Gary Granada; "Kumbinsido" by Ian Villanueva; "Hanap ng Bandera" by Timothy Angelo Albay; "Kasi" by Eli with R. Mendiluce; "Pao" by Remembrance R. Mabesa; "Unda ng Dila" by Noah Zaldua; "Tatsoy" by Byron Kintanar; "Tayo-tayo Lang" by Ronaldo III. Bertiso; "Bisaya" by James B. Lopez; "Bawat Kislang" by Gail Sisseras H. Hilagan; "Organize" by Michael Angelo Hilagan; and "Slowdancing" by John Gerard Eleazar Farnan.

"Mina's Song Suite" and "Bigtime" were written by veteran, multi-awarded composers. The lyricists—we were invited to help screen the entries...believe they have the strongest chances of emerging as the winners.

But all 14 finalists have a shot at it, positive to say, because they offer refreshing takes on somewhat themes and experiment with a variety of music genres.

Especially noteworthy are the inventive uses and humor in "Tatsoy," "Unda ng Dila" and "Organize."

Carpdeyah told the laymen: "I'm excited about all the top 14 songs. There are about 10 more that are worthy of inclusion...gusto kagaanda ang mga wildthing kasi para sa Philippe. But the rule of the top 14 is great. I'm proud to present them in the finals."

KBP Pop Music Fest winners Q-York and Kaz Lapaz

Finals night is on July 14 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay.

The top 14 will be recorded in an album to be distributed by Carro, a new local indie label.

2nd WAVE OF BODY POPPING CRAZE!

BIGGER. BETTER. BOLDER. BACK!

STREETDANCE

IN REAL 3D & 3D

NOW PLAYING!

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: STREETDANCE 2
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: THE RAVEN
5: THE AVENGERS/DARK SHADOWS
6: MEN IN BLACK 3
7: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

GREENBELT 1

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

GREENBELT 2

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
3: THE RAVEN
4: STREETDANCE 2
5: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
3: STREETDANCE 2/DARK SHADOWS
4: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING/SAW
5: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

ayala center cebu

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: STREETDANCE 2

MARQUEE

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK 3D
3: STREETDANCE 2/DARK SHADOW
4: 21 JUMP STREET

MARKET! MARKET!

1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECING
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: THE AVENGERS
5: MEN IN BLACK 3
6: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
2: THE RAVEN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: STREETDANCE 2
5: THE AVENGERS/DARK SHADOWS
6: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECING
7: MEN IN BLACK 3

ARANETA

1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: MEN IN BLACK 3
3: STREETDANCE 2
4: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

HARBOR POINT

1: SOON TO OPEN
2: SOON TO OPEN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: MEN IN BLACK 3 (2D)

For ticket reservations or purchases, call SureSeats at 3910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 1 & SM TRIDENT CINEMAS

The only one who can stop a serial killer is the man who inspired him.

THE RAVEN

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
ROBINSONS HIGH STREET
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
ABREEZA
SERENDRA

MALL SPECIAL

MAY 31 – JUNE 3

Tri-Noma

glorietta | Greenbelt | Alabang Town Center | ayala center cebu | Market! Market! | Trinoma | MARQUEE | Abreeza | Serendra

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2348

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

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BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PH. LOGOS

DICK TRACY

BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVEMORE

BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE

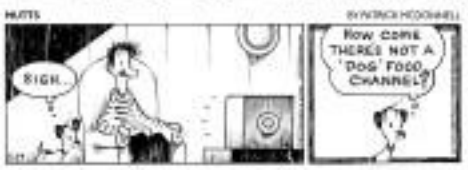
BY NIKKO ABRON

SEDI

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

DARYDA

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK

BY RINA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more help and more puzzles, visit www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8		3		2	6	5
								3
		7	9					
	5			8				
6	8		3		5		1	4
				4			7	
					7	6		
8								
1	3	9		6		8		

Difficulty Level: ★★

Answers to previous puzzle

4	1	3	2	5	6	9	8	7
2	5	6	9	8	7	4	3	1
9	8	7	4	1	3	5	2	6
5	6	8	7	3	1	2	4	9
3	7	1	8	9	4	6	5	2
9	4	2	5	6	8	3	7	1
7	2	4	6	8	5	1	9	3
6	3	5	1	7	9	8	2	4
8	9	1	3	4	2	7	6	5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers to previous puzzle

Derek Ramsay cool, hot in equal parts

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Arroe Cortejal

DEREK Ramsay is cool and hot in equal parts. He was in high spirits at the contract signing as ambassador of sports channel AKTV (ex-RPC TV).

It was hour-tearing as we hear close friends to his parents, who were such him that day. They were sitting each other like lovebirds.

The hunk has now lost the kid in him which endears him to the public. Derek is one heartthrob who's not full of himself because he's got a heart for others.

I immediately segued my interview with the "Crash ng Sigaw" head on:

What are your thoughts on being tapped as the sports ambassador of AKTV?

One of the reasons I decided to move to TV5 is to promote to support what I love, sports, so how could I say no? I'm tried that way. I'm excited to do Amazing Race and to cover the Olympics in London. It's my longtime dream to compete in the Olympics. For now, I'm happy to represent the country in the World Cup Poker Competition.

How true are reports that your talent fee in TV5 is an obscene amount of money?

What people don't know is, the office went out for the spot. But, it's nowhere near P500 million that people are saying. Mukahaya naman 'noon. I feel I don't deserve that kind of money. While po also as level ng career ko where I am, dinesisyon ko 'yung mga ganoon. But there's more to it than that. I would also like to do Amazing Race. I'm not the person to say how much I'm getting.

Do you think being single now makes you more bankable as an actor?

I don't think so, because even when I was still with Angelica (Panganiban) I was still the same relationship expensive. It doesn't matter what my status is, I always make sure I deliver as an actor.

Is there any hope for reconciliation with Angelica?

It was my biggest and most serious relationship. I felt she was the one. Unfortunately things didn't work out the way we wanted. This is probably the first time I'll say that I'll leave the door open.

The bedroom door, too?

All the doors, even the side doors I will leave open for Angel. When I'm in love, I'm a one-woman man. Actually last November also I had my first girlfriend at 30.

Does that mean you're not yet tired yet of being a bachelor at large?

It can get lonely being alone, but my passion for sports keeps me occupied.

Do you want to fall in love again anytime soon, or are you still healing?

I want to fall in love again. I can see my work, on my self mess. Before, I couldn't make a decision based on just how I felt. I always had to consider Angel's feelings, too.

What's your dream project?

A movie with Aga Muhlach. I've always said to see it with me.

You never leave home without your favorite beauty. What's the significance?

Actually it was a gift from Lipa Dimaguiba's gave me this many good things have been happening to me. I was walking around the church after praying when a priest approached me and said, "Iba-ba 'yung mayroon sa 'yo, ginawa do para sa 'yo." Even when I'm asleep, sure ko 'to sa akin. I'm praying, it's in my pocket. It fell off once, when I'd had too many beers in Boracay, but it found its way back to me. Whenever problems arise, I just hold this rosary and pray and, before I know it, solved na 'to. But I even had a rosary pattern of it for the rosary in my unit. That's how important it is to me.

How do you like to be remembered?

As someone who respects everybody, and who tried to live life making people happy.

'X Factor USA,' 'The Voice'

Amalia 23 has acquired the rights to air season 2 of the hit talent search, "The X Factor USA," via exclusive very soon with judges Simon Cowell, LA Reid and newly signed jurors, Demi Lovato and Britney Spears.

The network is also home to another singing competition, "The Voice". Chart-shot at 5:20 p.m. for the live rehearsal, and finishes at 8:30 p.m. for the voice shows). Replays on Monday at 6 p.m.

This June, Pinoys will also have a chance to strut their stuff as ABS-CBN localizes the worldwide hit franchise in "Pia X Factor Philippines" with AE Concepcion as host and Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano, Charice and Pilita Corrales sitting on the judges' panel. Stay tuned for updates!

Air feedback e-mail: entertainment@yahoo.com

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Dark Shadows
Safe

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

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6 Men in Black 3
7 Men in Black 3

Lucky Chinatown CINEMAS

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2 Street Dance 2 in 3D
3 Men in Black 3 in 3D
4 Men in Black 3

TIMES PLAZA
The Venetian Market

DOLBY DIGITAL